

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1914.

## THE SUBURBAN SERVICE

If the difficulty in connection with the suburban service is settled along the lines that yesterday's conference seemed to indicate, there will be little or no ground for further complaint. One thing that the visit of Hon. Dr. Reid made abundantly clear, is that no matter how deeply people living along the I. C. R. between St. John and Hampton may have been inconvenienced by the changes put in force by Mr. Gutelius, the government was in no way responsible. A request was made to Hon. J. D. Hazen to adjust a difficulty arising entirely outside of his department. He was prompt to secure the attendance of Hon. Dr. Reid, who, in the absence of Hon. Frank Cochran, is administering the department of railways and canals, and Dr. Reid gave satisfactory assurances that the cause of grievance would be removed. The first steps in that direction will be taken today when the additional trains go on the route.

There is one thing more. The people having their homes along the I. C. R. should procure from the general manager of the railway a statement of minimum service to be expected in the future. It need not take the form, or embrace the detail, of a timetable, but rather an undertaking that there shall be not less than a certain number of trains in each direction every working day. Such an understanding should remove the possibility of future repetition of the present fiasco. Mr. Gutelius has intimated his willingness to enter such an arrangement but it should not be lost sight of. In course of time, if the city continues to grow, the street cars will probably furnish transportation facilities even to Hampton, but until city growth and development demand such a service the people are entitled to the very best train arrangements that can be provided. It is nothing more than a public right.

## CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT.

It is illuminating to note that while certain City newspapers have been attacking the Government on the ground that lack of employment in St. John is due to the withdrawal of the Empire Press steamers, the Labor Gazette correspondent in this city cannot see any such serious situation. In the Gazette for February conditions in St. John are sized up as follows: "There were no more unemployed in former years. No relief measures were taken by the city, and applications for relief made to charitable societies were less than in any previous winter."

This conclusion is remarkably like that reached by Mayor Frink, President Robinson, of the Board of Trade and officials of charitable agencies, when quoted in interviews in an upper Canadian newspaper. Even though the Mayor, the president of the Board of Trade and the charity officers might not speak with full knowledge of the situation, the correspondent of the Labor Gazette is supposed to be in touch with organized labor, and his opinions should very nearly represent the real condition, as it affects the regular workers. It shows a brighter picture than the organs of gloom provide.

## BUILDING IN CANADA.

That the eastern provinces better than other portions of the Dominion withstood the effect of the financial stringency and industrial depression from which this country, in common with the world, suffered during the past twelve months, is one of the interesting conclusions to be drawn from the comparative return of the building operations in Canada for 1913 and 1912.

On another page of The Standard, this morning, will be found statistics from forty Canadian cities, twenty-five in the section known as the east, and the remaining fifteen from the prairie and Pacific coast region. Of the eastern cities fifteen showed an increase in building during 1913 compared with the preceding year, while ten reported an adverse condition.

St. John leads all cities in Canada in the proportion of its increase, and it is interesting to note that Sydney is the only city in the Maritime Provinces that did not show a gain. In the West, conditions are different. There, all, with the exception of Medicine Hat, show on the reverse side of the ledger, and in some cases the decrease is enormous, illustrating to what an extent the financial depression caused a postponement of building plans in the cities and towns beyond the Great Lakes.

A peculiar condition is noticed in the City of Montreal and its environs. Maliciousness, heralded as the great manufacturing centre of the Montreal of the future, was the only city in the district to show a decrease, while Westmont, the aristocratic suburb of the metropolis, exhibited a fine showing of growth. Port Arthur and

Port William, the "twin cities," are also on opposite sides of the accounting, the first named showing a decline and the other an increase. Also Toronto and the great manufacturing city of Hamilton, with Guelph, Berlin, Brantford and Stratford, famous for their manufactures, declined in building activity, while Ottawa, Quebec, Montreal, St. John and Halifax all gave evidence of good times.

In cities situated on tide-water great public works in course of construction account to a considerable degree for increased activity, but even this does not detract from the fact that the showing is a distinct triumph for the east. The Canadian building statement is a valuable contribution to the arguments in favor of the contention that Canadian prosperity, in good times or bad, is not confined to the West land. The young men of today have better opportunities in the East than at any time in the history of the Dominion.

## SOCIAL SERVICE.

In the city of Ottawa, this week, will assemble earnest men from all parts of the Dominion, drawn together solely by the desire to accomplish something for the good of their fellows. Social service, as an organized effort for the benefit of humanity generally, and without regard to creed or color, is assuming its proper place among the great problems of the day. Canada in the past has busied herself with the welfare of her forests, mines, fisheries and other natural resources; she has taken precautions to guard against the inroads of disease, the ravages of fire, and has enacted measures wise and useful to ensure the punishment of crime. But except what the churches have been able to accomplish within their denominational limits matters of vastly more importance to the Canadian people seem to have entirely escaped attention.

It is well to guard and conserve our resources, it is prudent to take measures to protect and develop our industries, but it is singular that there has been little or no concerted effort to build up and develop the Canadian men and women, vastly our greatest and most precious asset. That "man is master of his own destiny" is an adage hallowed by time, but with the utilitarian trend of the twentieth century it would be almost as true to paraphrase it to read man's destiny, at least so far as it concerns the present state, as largely a matter of circumstance. While men and women are forced to devote most of their time and energies to the problem of food and clothing, it is not surprising to find a very large proportion of both sexes content to rest in present circumstance rather than attempt the uncertain venture that may mean improvement or disaster.

There never was a time when the great social problems called for closer attention and study. The menace of intemperance, white slavery, industrial and social unrest, the duty of child welfare, citizenship and other questions allied with these, must be grappled with and solved, not only from a moral but an economic standpoint, if Canada is to maintain her place in the race of the world. While such conferences as that opening in Ottawa today have no legislative function, the interchange of the conclusions of trained minds cannot but have a most important effect upon the future development of any movement for the general improvement of social conditions.

## FREE WHEAT.

According to the United States consul at Hong Kong, there is a fear that Canadian flour may supplant the United States product in the favor of the Chinese purchasers. The consul at Hong Kong in his report to the United States government, says: "The United States has lost considerable trade to Canadian mills as a result of a difference in quality in American flour during the past year, as compared with previous years, and of the increasing competition offered by strong Canadian flours generally." In the West Indies there is the same story. The excellence of the Canadian product is winning friends and customers in competition with the output of the great milling industry of the United States.

Milling methods in the two countries are practically the same; consequently the difference in flour quality must be explained by the superiority of Canadian wheat. One of the objections to reciprocity was that the American miller would be able to possess himself of sufficient stocks of Canadian wheat, blend it with his own softer wheat and sell the flour milled therefrom as the product of Canadian hard wheat. The same objection holds good in regard to the free wheat proposition.

Canada is rapidly winning her way in the markets of the world by the excellence of her product. It is not only

necessary to protect this trade but it will soon become a duty to protect the reputation of the Canadian product. Free wheat, like reciprocity, would give the American miller the chance he is looking for, to buy Canadian wheat at the cheapest price and use its reputation as the hall mark of quality for the output of his mills. This will hardly appeal to the millers of Canada, whose operations in time are destined to outstrip in value even the gigantic milling industry of our southern neighbor.

## Diary of Events

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

#### NOTABLE POLAR EXPEDITION.

Lieut. Schwatka, of the United States Navy, who had led an overland "Franklin search expedition" in the Summer and Autumn of 1875, reached the most northerly Hudson's Bay station on his return trip thirty-four years ago today, March 3, 1890. Schwatka's party was the twenty-second to undertake the difficult task of searching for the relics of the Sir John Franklin polar expedition, and the 4th to be rewarded by the ferocious Northland in 1845. In 1850 Her Majesty's government offered a reward of \$100,000 to any party of any country that could render efficient assistance to the crew of Franklin's missing ships, the Erebus and the Terror. Many expeditions were dispatched, both from England and America, and in 1858 indisputable proof was obtained of the death of Sir John and his gallant men. It remained, however, for Lieut. Schwatka to find the bodies of the Franklin party. He set up memorials and brought away the remains of Lieut. John Irving, of the Terror. Although the party reached the Hudson's Bay outpost on the fringe of civilization in March, 1890, it was not until the following September that the explorers arrived in Canada with their grim relics. The remains of Lieut. Irving were turned over to the British government, and were buried at Edinburgh.

#### DR. BELL'S BIRTHDAY.

March 3 is the birthday of Alexander Graham Bell, who made his first experiments with the telephone in Canada, at Edinburgh, 1847. Nova Scotia elections on this date in 1901 returned the Murray Liberal government to power, with only two members of the opposition in the legislature.

#### THE PASSING DAY

##### A U. S. WAR.

Many centuries of great importance will be celebrated within the next few years, but not the least interesting, although it will doubtless pass without any formal observance, is the which commemorates the declaration of war by the United States against Algiers. One year from today, March 3, 1915, will mark the hundredth anniversary of that historic proclamation of hostilities. Algiers is now a peaceful, prosperous and productive French colony, with a beautiful capital that bears the name of the generation of Americans it is principally famous as the place where a soldier of the legion lay dying in the century ago Algeria was the abode of a piratical population, nominally tributary to Turkey but really independent, who waged unceasing warfare on the honest merchantmen of the Mediterranean, and particularly those who flew the flag of the United States. The ships were looted by the pirates and the crews taken captive, to be sold as the slaves of cruel masters if they were not ransomed by relatives or friends. The Algerians found piracy a profitable business, and the Algerian authorities were slow to be able them to carry it on without any real opposition. In 1795 the United States made a humiliating treaty with the Bey of Algiers, agreeing to pay that chief of the Barbary pirates a tribute equal to \$22,000 a year for "protection" to American commerce. When the year 1812 broke out the Bey found it more profitable to ignore this treaty and the capture of American merchantmen and the enslavement of American sailors were renewed.

When the United States concluded a peace with England, the infant republic turned its attention to the North African shore. On March 3, 1815, war was declared, and in the following May Commodore Decatur sailed from New York for Algiers with a fleet of three frigates, the USS Argus, the USS Macedonian and Constellation, one sloop of war, four brigs and two schooners. The Barbary pirates had a powerful fleet, much superior to that sent against them by the United States and the day was severely contested that the American expedition would force the Algerian fleet to the market place. Decatur had had previous experience in dealing with the North Africa pirates in the expedition against Tripoli some years before, when his brilliant achievement of boarding and burning the captured Philadelphia, escaping under the fire of 141 guns, won the praise of Nelson as "the most daring act of the age."

When the American fleet arrived before Algiers the pirate ships gave battle and a sanguinary conflict followed. The Macedonian, the flagship of the Algerians, was captured and the Americans were sweeping all before them. When the day, the terror, stood to all American demands, agreed to forego tribute, and gave up the American slaves, who kissed the Stars and Stripes and wept for joy. One of the most affecting pictures in history. In the following year England demanded Algiers and forced the Bey to agree to put a stop to piracy—on agreement that was kept, although the pirates were thereafter careful to avoid molesting vessels flying the British or American flags.

One of the most wonderful transformations of the nineteenth century and one that has passed with little attention, was that of Algiers from a Barbary pirate stronghold to a civilized state, over which now floats the proud tri-color of France. The enterprise of the Frenchman has made Algeria, like the rest of the world, a part of the most beautiful of the world's cities. Every year the popularity of the city as a winter resort increases, and it is likely that before long Algiers will become a real rival of the Riviera.

## Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAGE.

Last night I heard something and went up and looked out the window in my night gown and how 4 men was singing in front of our house, holding arms to each other under the lam post, being different size men but awl having there hats own brookid.

They was singing Old oaken bucket, sum of them holding the words and sum jest noing the toon, sounding pretty good, and jest then I herd anuther windo open, being pop windo down stairs, and pop stuck his head out to see what was the matter, and jest then anuther windo opened, and it was Mr. Joneses windo, necktie doat, and Mr. Jones stuck his head out, to.

Heer, heer, pop kalled down, nite was mald for sleeping, not for ker-rowling.

The old oaken bucket, the trun bawnd bucket, the moss kuvvied bucket that hung in the well, sed the 4 men, 2 of them singing it and 2 jest saying it very lowd.

Go to yure own nayerhood and make yure hideyis noises, sed pop. How deer to my hart are you, my childern, sed the 4 men putting there arms around each other necks as if they was going to kiss each other. Klear out now, befor I kail an orficer, sed pop.

The 4 men looked up to ware pop was looking down and wun of them sed, singing. There was an old man in nite gown, and anuther wun, having AND HE DID

DEAR ME—THERE GO MY GLASSES—I'LL HAVE TO STOOP OVER AND PICK THEM UP.

Do not suffer another day with itching, burning, and smarting PILES. Do not let this trouble you any longer. Dr. Chamberlain's Pile Remedy will cure you in a few days, and as certainly cure you, see a box, all dealers, or Edmonson's drug store, St. John, N. B. Sample box free if you mention this paper and enclose 10c stamp to pay postage.

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a voice like a lady's, sang. And he looked like a ten penny nail, and then the hole 4 men sang together. There was an old man in his nite gown, and he looked like a ten penny nail, yas he looked, yas he looked, yas he looked like a ten penny nail.

Ha, ha, ha, sed Mr. Jones, laughing from his windo.

You blithering idlytis, sed pop.

Blithering idlytis kalled he us, sang first man.

Blithering idlytis himself, old kuss, sang the seckind man, and then the 4 men sang together agen, blithering idlytis kalled he us, blithering idlytis himself, old kuss.

Ha, ha, ha, sed Mr. Jones.

Yure worse than they are, sed pop, shaking his fist at Mr. Jones.

A hah, yure worse than they are, still pop, shaking his fist at Mr. Jones.

A hah, yure worse than us, sang the first man, waving his hand at Mr. Jones.

Yas, yur nite sowned kuss, sang the seckind man, and then awl of them sang. A hah, yure worse than us, yur nite sowned kuss, far worse, us, yur nite sowned kuss, far worse, us.

Igerant asses, sed Mr. Jones, and slammed his windo down, and put his windo down, and the 4 men sang Old oaken bucket wunts moar and then, still around each other necks and I put my windo down.

That's it.

"What is frenzied finance?"

"Financing your friends."

Just That.

Tommy—"Pop, what is the difference between duty and pleasure?"

Tommy's Pop—"Just as much, my son, as there is between a wheelbarrow and an automobile."

Embrace 'Em All.

A bachelor minister, when about to call in a villa district, stated quite frankly:

"In these visits I shall, of course, embrace the servants."

How's This?

A lady of recent widowhood encountered much difficulty in framing an inscription for her dear husband's tombstone. After endless consultations with her friends and neighbors, this was the one she selected:

"Rest in Peace—until we meet again."

Poor Fellow.

He purchased his sweetheart a pair of ten-button kid gloves, and handed them in at the door himself. The servant girl took them and, going to the foot of the stairs bawled out:

"Please, miss, ere's a young man er has brought you a pair of leg-gins."

The Dough Man.

(By Jim Mance.)

You might say he's a loafer.

But, anyway, he keeps we folks Right under his thumb.

Whenever our poor appetites Make our insides feel lean,

He often has a "bun," by gosh!

—The Baker man, I mean.

P. S.—But, shucks, maybe he was bred that way.

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