

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1922.

"POWER AT COST."

The great canvass that was put up in the recent civic election was that by civic distribution of the Musquash current, the people would get power at cost, and this was explained to be 1.2 cents at the sub-station at Fairville, and four cents delivered to the consumer. The hundreds of citizens who were stampeded into voting for the proposal on this basis, are now finding out the gross misrepresentation that was practised upon them. Mr. Herbert Phillips, who according to The Times "is an engineer of very wide experience, and has the technical knowledge and the merit of rare good judgment in dealing with men of affairs," says that four cents is the average price that current can be sold for provided the whole 10,000,000 kilowatts is sold, but that if only 5,000,000 kilowatts, which is the present output, is all that is sold, the average price will be eight cents. Now the average price that the consumer is paying the N. B. Power Company today is only 8.54 cents and the maximum is 15 cents with 10% off for prompt cash. Mr. Phillips also says that the maximum price under civic distribution will be eight cents on a sale of 10,000,000 kilowatts, but on a sale of half that quantity only, it will be 16 cents. What do the citizens who were stampeded into voting the hydro ticket in the belief that they were going to get their light at four cents, think of this admission? The Times may not think figures of this nature "impressive," but the consumers will when they get their light bills under the new regime—if it ever materializes.

THE SENATE VACANCY.

Another aspirant for the vacant seat in the Senate has appeared in the person of Mr. James Burgess of Grand Falls. This gentleman was formerly one of the members for the County of Victoria in the Legislature, and shortly after re-election in 1917, he gracefully retired in order to provide seating accommodation in the Assembly for the Hon. W. E. Foster, who had been rejected by the people of St. John County, and who needed a seat on being called upon to form a Government. It is said that Mr. Burgess' friends are pushing his claims very insistently, and that they are calling upon Mr. Foster to support them on the ground that one good turn deserves another. With Mr. Foster called upon to support one candidate and Mr. Veniot pushing the claims of another, Mr. Burgess, in order that he may take that gentleman's place in the Commons, the trip that these honorable gentlemen took to Ottawa must have been a very lively and enjoyable one. The latest report is that the Government will not fill the vacancy just immediately, and that a Senator King intends to retire at an early date, the two vacancies may be filled at the same time. The thing that is probably troubling Mr. Foster most is whether Mr. Burgess will consider the Premier's indebtedness to him at last wiped out if he gets the seat on the latter's recommendation. The indebtedness plea has been worked on so many occasions in other connections, that Mr. Foster must be heartily sorry he ever incurred it.

LIBERALS AND THE FLAG.

The cost of flying the flag on public buildings was attacked in the House of Commons as unnecessary expenditure by Wm. Duff, of Lunenburg, N. S. Liberal. Mr. Duff's protest gives a new turn to an old reproach. The Conservative party has often been attacked by Liberal critics for "waving the flag." Mr. Duff does better. He is not even satisfied to permit the flag to wave itself from Government buildings. Pastest against flag-flying is only the logical next step to protest against flag-waving. Hon. W. S. Fielding told Mr. Duff he liked to see the flag flying on public buildings. But the Toronto Telegram declares that in the judgment of the Liberal party of Canada as a whole, including Quebec, Mr. Fielding is not so good a Liberal as Mr. Duff. His confession of a regard for the flag is apparently not sound Liberal doctrine. Canada does not parade the flag as the emblem is paraded in the United States, for example. It is no ordinary detestate for blatant show that made the flag offensive to Mr. Duff. Mr. Duff's gesture is the one most desirable trait of the Liberal party's incoherent platform and pro-conscription campaign against any public demonstration of loyalty—a campaign which would have a bad influence upon the mixed population of the Dominion.

If there are no more gold mines to be discovered, one can still organize a political group and take a crack at the public Treasury.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Same Here.
(Ottawa Journal.)
The contractors will serve themselves and the community if they make it abundantly clear that the man who wants to build a house will receive in full measure the saving on lower costs. All of us are interested whether we are building or not. The more building there is this summer the more employment there will be and the more money will circulate through the business veins of Ottawa. The more new houses are put up, the more likelihood there will be of a reduction in rents. And in other indirect ways that are obvious, the general public will share with the home builder, the contractor, and the building trades worker in the benefit of an active building season.

The Georgian Grip.
(Buffalo Courier.)
The Genoa conference is probably beginning to understand why it is that the British House of Commons has so much difficulty in getting rid of Lloyd George. Isn't he a clinger?

Real Peril.
(Brookville Recorder.)
After riding elephants and shooting tigers in India, the Prince of Wales now has to face the ordeal of coming home and getting married.

A Good Idea.
(Kingston Standard.)
A Kingstonian hopes that the next few months will see the invention of a device for running the lawn mower by radio.

Freedom To Boss Others.
(Christian Statistman.)
Ireland is free. Then what's the fight about? To settle which Irishmen shall have all the freedom.

A Guess At Truth.
(St. Catharines Standard.)
Scratch a Red in Canada these days and you will find some half-brained, ignorant, half-baked, long haired, tradeless curbside argument that only too easy to work, but too lazy to search for work.

Ontario's Finances.
(Port Arthur News-Chronicle.)
Driven into a corner from which there was no escape, Premier Drury excused the Ontario Government financial report by saying that it mattered not whether there was a surplus or deficit, in public accounts. He also said that public moneys were expended for the public welfare, and thus dismissed an alleged accomplishment by his Government which had been charged as a wonderful achievement.

It was proven by Mr. Nickle, of Kingston, Mr. G. H. Ferguson, leader of the Conservative group, and Wellington Hay, leader of the Liberal group, that not only did the Government not produce a surplus, but that in fact there was a deficit variously estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The methods resorted to by the Provincial Treasurer to show an alleged surplus were exposing and produced an effect upon the House that was anything but favorable. Forced into an admission by revelations made by Mr. Nickle, the Treasurer confessed that an error of accounting for \$5,000,000 had been made in the accounts. It was shown beyond dispute that immense sums had been charged to capital accounts which had been charged against ordinary expenditures. The total of the larger of these items was over \$2,000,000, while scores of smaller items were unaccounted for. In his defence Mr. Drury was pitiable. He had had prepared a statement from which he proceeded to quote and refused to be moved from the line of his written argument by the width of a hair. Asked several questions that arose from the quotations he was giving he declined to answer. The strong probability is that he did not know what answer to give and this was the impression left on the members and galleries who heard the three leaders in the closing address on the budget.

THE LAUGH LINE

Pug noses and bad pennies are always sure to turn up.

We notice that when any question arises as to an elderly girl's age, the neighbor women never underestimate it.—Ohio State Journal.

Advance Showing.
"What interested you most in Florida?"
"Next summer's styles."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Filmy Excuse.
She had asked the jeweller to estimate the cost of repairing a lavaliere. "All right," she said, after the price had been named. "I'll bring it back when it gets warmer. I'd take cold if I took it off now."

Only Package Different.
"What are girls coming to with their modern dresses?" "Aw, it's just a different style package." "Hah?" "The goods are all right."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Careful and Wise.
"Is he a careful driver?"
"Yes. He even watches the corners when he has the right of way."—Detroit Free Press.

Celebrate.
A Kansas welfare worker urged list stockings and sateen petticoats for girls earning less than \$16.93. List stockings may be all right and sateen is good, but what does she mean petticoats?

An Advantage.
Silliness—"Ah, love, in a cottage is a beautiful thought."
Cynicism—"At any rate, there is no janitor to contend with."

A few women can drive cars, but the majority sit at the steering wheel and are taken care of by a kind fate.—Jacksonville (Fla.) Metropolis.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

I went out yesterday and some lady was wawking up and down the pavement hunting for something with a expression as if she was sorry she lost it, me saying, Wat did you drop, lady, a dime?
I wish it only had bin a dime, said the lady.
Me thinking, O, she must of dropped a quarter. And I started to help her look, and pritty soon Fads Slankins came on, wawking to me, Wats a matter? and me wawking back, She lost a quarter, wot you look and if you find it you wat to get at least a dime reward.
G, sed Fads. And he started to hunt too, and the more we hunted the more we didnt find anything, and after a while the lady sed, Well, Im a hurry, I gess Ill haf to give it up.
And she went down the street, being a little lady with gloves on, and me and Fads kepp on looking and Sid Hunt and Leroy Shooter came up and they started to hunt too, everybody trying to look in the same spot at once on account of wanting to be the one to see if first in case-it was there, and after a while who came up the street agen on her way past but the little lady, saying, Never mind; boys, I gess its gone for good, and Im sure Ill never find another buttin to match it.
And she kepp on going past and us fellows all stopped looking and started to act diskusted, saying, Buttin, buttin, wat the heck, buttin, good nite, holey smokes, G wiaz, buttin.
Being a good thing for the buttin we didnt find it after that.

SENT LOVE "COLLECT" TO MISS CULBERSON

English Soldier's Wooing by Wire Without Cost Perturbed Senator.

Washington, D. C., May 11.—Unusual methods pursued by Alexander E. Robertson, a British war veteran, in pressing his suit for the hand of Miss Mary Culbertson, daughter of Senator Charles A. Culbertson of Texas, came to light today after the young suitor had charged that he had been kidnapped by the Senator's agents in a plot to spirit him out of the country.
The British Embassy is interesting itself in the case to the extent that it will be sure that Robertson, who apparently fears that other efforts are to be made to get rid of him, is not treated unjustly.
Robertson was expected at the embassy today, but he did not appear. It is expected that he will be in Washington tomorrow.
Meantime Miss Culbertson, the object of the ardent Englishman's attentions, is at home with her mother away from everybody. Her allowance, ordinarily bountiful, as might become the wealth of her father, has been cut off, so that she could not, even if she wanted to get to see the romantic soldier.

Robertson's procedure as a wooer was to keep a constant train of telegrams going to the Culbertson residence in Sixteenth street. The result was that there was an endless parade of messenger boys, and all the messages they carried were marked "collected." At intervals when telegrams were not arriving Robertson was getting Miss Culbertson on the long distance telephone from Austin, Tex., with the charges reversed.

It was these constant telegrams and telephone calls which first attracted the attention of the Senator and Mrs. Culbertson to their daughter's love affair. They wanted to know who it was who was keeping up such an unusual line of communication, particularly at Miss Culbertson's expense. Miss Culbertson told about the man, whom she described as a war hero, an Englishman, six feet tall and perfectly handsome, but about whose family affairs she was very lais.

The W. J. Burns Detective Agency was engaged. Senator Culbertson, it seems, did not appear in the matter, allowing it to be handled by his private secretary, Chesley W. Jurney. What the Culbertsons wanted, merely, was to know who Robertson might be, what he did for a living, and what serious intentions he had toward their daughter.

The Senator and Mrs. Culbertson continued to deny themselves to visitors today, and Mr. Jurney, the private secretary, was out of the city. Mr. Jurney was reported to have gone to Newark, the home of Robertson, but it was a matter of speculation. The word went around that he would return to Washington tomorrow.

Qualified Praise.
When Thomas Nelson Page, the novelist, was a baby, his father called in the old family butler to see his son. The grizzled servant of two generations told him and said: "Ah, 'clare, Mars' John, dis de prettiest little white baby Ah ever did see."

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