

The St. John Standard

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NOTICE

Effective immediately, The Standard office will operate on Daylight time. The business office opens at eight o'clock (Standard time) and closes at five o'clock. Advertisers will please govern themselves accordingly.

MR. FOSTER'S SCRAP OF PAPER.

Premier Foster appears to regard the platform adopted by his party at the St. John convention as a scrap of paper. When B. F. Smith remarked in the House the other evening that the leader of the Government had gone back on his promise to build the Valley Railway to Andover, Hon. Mr. Foster rose in his place and blandly inquired if the promise to which reference was made was that in the platform of his party when in opposition.

Then he sat down again, as if he had said all there was need to say, and indicating that the party platform on which he was returned to power was no concern of his Government. He did not, like another prominent statesman, even take the trouble to plead necessity for repudiating the solemn promise of his party in convention assembled. He simply dismissed the whole matter with a wave of his hand and the self-satisfied smile of one who is superior to such things as obligations binding upon the ordinary man.

It can scarcely be said that Mr. Foster's refusal to carry out his party's promise is due to his overwhelming passion for economy. At any rate he does not appear to be particularly worried by the extravagant manner in which the minister of public works has been piling up expenditures on roads and bridges and charging the outlay to capital. Nor is his present attitude dictated by any rigid regard for truth, for one week he told the House that the delay in extension of the railway to Andover has been due to the fact that the Government had decided to make a third survey. The next week he told the Victoria Convention delegation that he could not raise the money for this construction, partly owing to the fact that the Prudential Trust Company had taken the proceeds of the sale of bonds for twelve miles of railway and invested it in business on the Pacific Coast, which part of America apparently has first claim on the use of New Brunswick's money. If the Premier is sincere in his professed desire to have the Dominion Government take over the Valley Railway he should be anxious to ensure that railway towards Grand Falls as rapidly as possible for, as Mr. Smith pointed out, the Dominion would take it over all the quicker if he had trunk line connection. Indeed, it may readily be argued from the Premier's attitude that he does not want the Government to take over the road, for the two principal arguments urged in support of this course would only be strengthened by the completion of the Valley line. One of these arguments is that a great system of national railways would then be provided with a direct route to the winter port of St. John. The other is that the Dominion Government should give the Maritime Provinces better railway facilities by way of compensation for their contribution towards the construction of canals and railways in other parts of Canada. If the Premier has faith in these, his own arguments, there is reason why he should stultify himself by repudiation of the pledge of his party in view of the fact that the Dominion Government will eventually meet the cost of completing the Valley Railway.

THE AMUSEMENT TAX.

Mr. Potts brought up in the House recently a matter which is of interest to practically every one in every town and village in the Province. This is the iniquitous amusement tax imposed by the Provincial Government, purely as a means of revenue, to which the Provincial Government is not entitled and which the people have no right to pay. Had this province been called upon to meet any extraordinary expenditure, such as has been faced by the Federal Government, during the past few years some reason might have been found for the imposition of special taxation of this nature, and under circumstances such as described the people would not strenuously object. But New Brunswick has had no such extraordinary expenditures not already generously provided for. In view of the possibility of calls being made upon the provincial treasury for patriotic and war purposes, the Venetian Government a year ago imposed direct taxation of one hundred and eighteen thousand dollars and for this they have not the least shadow of an excuse. That direct assessment on the people is nothing more or less than an outrage, for it is admitted by the provincial secretary that even by the widest stretch of imagination he has not been

able to expend more than thirty-two thousand dollars of the patriotic and war purposes fund—so-called—on anything which in any sense can be regarded as for patriotic or war purposes. The remaining sixty or seventy thousand dollars collected under that assessment has gone for road ditching and into that same fund so ruthlessly squandered by Peter Veniot has also been dumped the other large amount taken from women and children in the form of an amusement tax. Of this amount St. John contributes nearly one half. The bulk of it comes from boys and girls who save their pennies to go to the picture shows and who have to add one cent to the price of the ticket of admission in order to meet the insatiable demands of Mr. Veniot, who is endeavoring to appease his hunger for supporters all over New Brunswick. Every man, woman and child who goes to a theatre today is contributing to a party campaign fund to be at the disposal of Mr. Foster and his friends, just as those who were deliberately robbed of more than one hundred thousand dollars for so-called patriotic and war purposes are contributing to that fund. The language used by Mr. Potts in relation to the amusement tax was altogether too mild to express the feelings of the people of New Brunswick in this particular regard.

Mr. Burchill considers it good business to support campaign funds, and it is people of Mr. Burchill's class who should put up the money required by Mr. Veniot and the others for the maintenance of their party organizations in the different counties, instead of forcing pennies from the children for such purposes.

COMMISSION.

Since Commission Government was introduced in St. John some six years ago, opinion has differed as to the wisdom of our people in making the change. There can be no doubt that the adoption of the present form of government was very largely due to the efforts of a comparatively small group of prominent men, by a well organized campaign, placed very clearly before the people the weaknesses of the old system and the prospective advantages of the new, and who through the organization of the Citizens' Committee, undertook to keep in close touch with Commission Government and to guarantee its successful operation. Though well organized, it did not take the trouble to point out any of the advantages of the old Government or the weaknesses of the new, nor did the Citizens' Committee ever attempt to live up to its agreement to act as an advisory board. Having established Commission Government in St. John, the new scheme was allowed to drift. Those who promoted it took no further interest in it, and the weaknesses of Commission Government which might have been avoided by continued interest on the part of those responsible for it, have been growing more apparent every year. There are numbers of people who oppose commission, but their opposition has not recently taken the form of active hostility to the extent of urging the return to the old method of government. This may be a development of the future, but Commission Government in itself is no worse today than it was when adopted by St. John.

As this paper has repeatedly pointed out, commission in itself is not altogether to blame for the measure of satisfaction or otherwise that it is accorded. The responsibility for proper administration of civic affairs rests with the people themselves, and unless the electors of St. John are prepared to see that those chosen to handle the business of the City are the best men available for that purpose, it matters but little whether we have commission, board of control, ward system or some other form in operation. Commission Government has some good points. The aldermanic system had its good points. No one plan is or ever will be ideal, and while there seems to be a growing dissatisfaction with the present method of administration as well as with some of the men elected to office, it may readily be expected that unless a direct personal interest is displayed in civic affairs by the great majority of the people in their form of government and in the men elected, no form of administration will be satisfactory.

VOLUNTARY EFFORT.

Apart altogether from the thousands of miscellaneous objects to which our voluntary war organizations have devoted their efforts during the past four or five years, there have been contributed by governments, municipalities, societies, business houses, etc., and by private individuals not less than \$100,000,000.00 for war purposes. These various funds include the Canadian Patriotic, \$42,864,207; Manitoba Patriotic, \$3,957,042; Canadian Red Cross, \$33,271,053; British Red Cross, \$6,100,000; Belgian Relief, \$3,154,904; Y. M. C. A., \$4,574,821; Imperial Government, \$4,469,319; other objects, \$13,000,000. Of the various war organizations working in Canada or among Canadian troops overseas the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross and

the Y. M. C. A. are the most extensive in operation. The work of these societies is, however, so well known as to require no further comment.

Women to the number of 2,400 have gone overseas and have served in England, France, Belgium, Egypt, Greece and Russia in base hospitals, clearing stations, ambulances, trains and hospital ships, while 527 have been on duty in Canada. Four nurses were killed in France by bombing raids, 14 at sea by submarines, 15 died overseas of disease and 6 died in Canada. In addition to this official force, 342 V. A. D.'s have gone overseas and have served in hospitals in England and France. Four nursing sisters have won the Military Medal, 42 the Royal Red Cross of the first class and 149 of the second class. In Canada in 1918 more than 8,000 women were employed in banks, and 600 in trust and insurance companies. In munitions factories 30,000 were employed at one time, while in the air force more than 1,000 have been engaged. In Government Service between 5,000 and 6,000 women were employed. Service. There are, however, no complete figures available to show the true extent to which women in general, commercial and industrial life have replaced men serving overseas.

MILK REGULATIONS.

The promulgation of reasonable regulations governing the production and sale of milk should not be long delayed. From information of a most convincing nature which has been received during the past few weeks, it is clear to all who care to learn, that milk is being sold in the City of St. John, the methods of production, the Province, which is not fit for human consumption, but which is sold because the producers and dealers are in ignorance of the actual condition of the article which they sell. Modern regulations in milk testing permit of a count of ten thousand bacilli per cubic centimeter in pasteurized milk. Specimens of milk sold in St. John have been found to contain within the past two weeks have shown a count of more than two million bacilli per cubic centimeter. Fresh milk not so treated has run even higher as against a maximum count of one hundred thousand per cubic centimeter, generally regarded by health authorities as the safety limit.

This condition indicates two things, that the methods of production adopted by at least some of the producers are not effective and that in the production of milk itself farmers are not exercising proper care. This state of affairs is not found to exist in the products of all farms, but out of the very large number of samples which have been examined the proportion running beyond the limit of safety is altogether too high. Reference has previously been made to the continued sale of milk alleged to be whole milk, but falling away below the standard in fat. This is still going on, although the sale of such milk has been somewhat lessened as has been learned through the examination of samples, and the proportion showing less than the proper amount of fat is smaller than was the case some months ago. It should not be the purpose of the Board of Health to introduce and make effective immediately any regulations calculated to overcome the present undesirable condition without first giving the producers and dealers ample notice and permitting them to bring about all possible improvements in the quality of milk.

WHAT THEY SAY

Fort Leavenworth Style.
New York Herald: Of the 10,000 private sentenced to forty years in prison for refusing to drill, went about his disobedience too mildly. Should have been conscientious objector, refused to fight or do anything else, thus winning honorable discharge and full pay.

Provincial Functions.
Toronto Globe: The function of health regulation belongs primarily to the local authority and Provincial superintendence. If the officials of the new Federal Department are wise, they will keep this in mind and not try to encroach on Provincial jurisdiction.

A Tempered Drought.
Toronto News: According to the License Board, Ontario doctors have issued over half a million prescriptions for intoxicating liquors since wartime prohibition went into effect. It is clear that the province is scarcely "dry." But no sound argument for the re-establishment of the open bar can be based upon these considerations.

Time For a Square Deal.
From the Kingston Whig: Lord Shaughnessy, in a recent address to over five hundred C. P. R. officials, summed up the demand of the working men for the end of the war. The opportunity to enjoy the good things of life that those in higher positions have enjoyed. The captains of industry are beginning to recognize the fact that there must be a wider measure of co-operation between employer and employee.

Rubbing It In.
Toronto Globe: A bottle in the cellar being worth ten in the distillery under prohibition, many householders have laid up liquid reserves against the drought, and have been ready to open up two new fields of activity. One of these fields is being cultivated by the enterprising burglar. The frequency of cellar thefts is very much talked about, except by the losers. They are all such good losers that they are saying nothing for publication.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I had 10 cents yesterday, being a nickel and 5 pennies with different dates on them, and after supper I thought, G. I. know wat, I'll go around and ask Mary Watkins if she wants to go to the movies.

Which I went around to, and Mary Watkins was sitting on her front steps just settling there, me saying: There's a grate movie around at the movies today, have you saw it?

No, have you? said Mary Watkins, and I sed, No, and she sed, Then how do you know its grate?

The pictures outside look grate, I sed. Which she didnt say anything, and I sed, Do you want to go and see it, I got 10 cents.

O. I'd jest love to, sed Mary Watkins. Which jest then I felt in my pocket was the money was, and all I could feel was the nickel and 4 pennies, and the more I felt the more I couldnt feel the other penny on account of it not being there, me thinking, G. gosh, G. And I felt in all my other pockets and all they had in them was wat they was supposed to have, me thinking, Gosh, G. gosh.

No, sed Mary Watkins. And we kept on going, me thinking, G. I know, I'll axidly on perps drop all the money wen Im getting the tickets and then say I cant find one of the cents.

Which I did, the nickel and the 4 cents rolling in all different directions, and all we could find was the nickel and 2 cents, and me and Mary Watkins kept on hunting about 10 minutes, her hoping to find 3 more cents and me hoping to find 2 more, we didnt find any more, me saying, O well, I know wat they give you 2 spoons with a 5 sent plate of ice cream if you ask them, lets go there.

Which we did, me using the extra 2 cents for 2 doughnuts.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE FARMERS' INNINGS.
(Toronto Star.)
I guess you city fellows, who just think you're awful smart,
Have had a jolt lately, that has given you a start.
Us farmers' getting wiser now, and down there to Ottawa,
We've spoke sharp to our members, for to vote again that law.
That daylight saving business, that you city folks desire,
So's, you can raise more garden truck, and no more be a buyer of stuff us farmers have to sell, give us all the josh;
Well, we have put a crimp in that, we surely have, by gosh.

And don't forget, you city folks, with you're not yet through,
There's many another thing we want, excepting just the boot,
We're going to knock the tariff out, and have free implements,
And you had better knuckle down, till now you've had just all the say, and made the laws to suit,
And us poor farmers nothing got, But times have changed, and now we stand united one and all,
Just watch us, city people, and you'll see the tariff fall.

I know we're making money, and are having real good times,
A piling up the dollars, and a spending just the dime;
But long you've had your innings, right now we rule the deck,
So we will make you trot a heat, we surely will, by heck.

JOSH.

A BIT OF FUN

Where to Look.
Hokus—I've been looking for Hempeke everywhere. I wonder where he is.
Pokus—Have you looked under his wife's thumb?—Judge.

Something Erudite.
"Young air!"
"Yes, madam?"
"I apprehend through perusing the paper that you are conducting a bargain sale in tomes and volumes."
"We are," said the clerk in the book department. "Here is something by Ibsen. It would just suit your style of intellect."

A Severe Strain.
"Glad to hear your son is home again. Of course you are delighted to have him with you once more."
"Yes," replied Mr. J. Fuller Gloom. "But—er—er—it is a bit depressing at first. However, I suppose we'll have to get used to living up to the dignity of having a lieutenant in the family all the time."

Knew the Price.
A woman decided to give a party, and purchased a hat stand which she admired. While showing her purchase to a visitor her little boy came in and forgot to remove his hat. Thinking to teach him a lesson, she said: "Tommy, what did I buy that hat stand for?"
"For a dollar and a half," answered Tommy promptly. "But you said that I was not to tell anyone."

A Barrister's Break.
A barrister, not so discreet as he

was, had been looking for Hempeke everywhere. I wonder where he is.

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