

The St. John Standard

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THE SESSION.

So far as reports from Ottawa show there will be nothing in the programme of the session which opens tomorrow of a very exciting or contentious nature; nothing that will make such a demand upon the intellectual energies of the members of Parliament as to justify the agitation for increased indemnity, at a time every body is preaching economy and the representatives ought to be setting an example to the people. Among the measures foreshadowed are a new franchise act, providing for the substitution of a Dominion for the Provincial voters list; a limited scheme of superannuation for civil servants; amendments to the Lemoine act bringing it more in line with the modern demands of labor; a bill defining the duties of a Canadian representative at Washington; and probably the initial features of a naval policy.

Important changes in the tariff are unlikely. The Government has now a tariff enquiry underway, but it will not be ready for a general revision, and neither Parliament or the people will be anxious for a general overhaul of the tariff till financial and economic conditions become more settled.

Main interest will center in the budget, and Sir Henry Drayton's plans for raising the big revenues required. The financial problem is a difficult one, and will hardly be cleared away this session. Sir Henry has been non-committal in regard to his attitude to the business profits tax, to which strong opposition has developed, and which will probably be strongly reflected in Parliament. Any abatement of the customs revenues through tariff reduction will have to be made up by taxes on profits and incomes, and in a young country where inducements are needed to develop natural resources such taxes are unpopular, though they are probably inevitable.

CIVIC PROBLEMS.

St. John has several problems on its hands, and the sooner they are solved the better it will be for the future program and prosperity of the city. With two of them, the harbor question and the street railway difficulty the city government has a direct concern; with others such as manufacturing industries and better housing accommodation to ameliorate discontent among the working people, city government is not so directly concerned, but it could be an important factor in solving them.

At one time it was with eloquence proclaimed from the house tops and Canterbury street that Commission Form of Government would make for a broad view and strong grasp of policy and affairs, for continuity of action. How commission form of government has demonstrated its possession of these desirable capacities, attributes, graces and virtues is well known. If commission form of government is any nearer a permanent roadmaking policy than Hon. Mr. Venor is, then city hall with the best intentions in the world has successfully kept the citizens in that state of bliss wherein it is said to be folly to be wise. If commission form of government has any nearer a permanent roadmaking policy than Hon. Mr. Venor is, then city hall with the best intentions in the world has successfully kept the citizens in that state of bliss wherein it is said to be folly to be wise. If commission form of government has any nearer a permanent roadmaking policy than Hon. Mr. Venor is, then city hall with the best intentions in the world has successfully kept the citizens in that state of bliss wherein it is said to be folly to be wise.

GOOD INTENTIONS.

The city commissioners are worried over the tax question, but reports from other cities indicate that they are not lonely. It is, however, not easy to understand all the proposals of the commissioners. For some days they have been discussing a bill to empower the city to levy one half the cost of sidewalks, and two thirds of the cost of permanent paving upon abutters, and yesterday after the mayor had left the council they adopted a resolution to refer the matter to a plebiscite, combined with a resolution to seek authority from the Legislature to permit the city to return any money collected from abutters for permanent pavement on through-traffic or business streets.

Under the old regime the city bore the whole expense of paving Water, Dock, Mill, and Main streets, which are certainly through-traffic streets. Since then the paving of Germain, Garden, Union, Sydney and the street

around King Square has been done with the abutters paying a portion of the cost, some of these streets are through-traffic streets, others could hardly be classed in that category. If the commission form of government had accepted the principle of the city paying for through-traffic streets taxes might have been higher, but the city might have had more improved streets and got better value for its expenditure than it has done.

The local improvement act already on the statute books permits property holders to secure paved streets if they want them by paying a portion of the cost. But it is hardly applicable to the streets most in need of pavement in the interest of general traffic at any rate the city authorities have found it very difficult to get the necessary number of property holders to agree to pay a portion of the cost. But there is no great reason why the city if it wants to should not go ahead with permanent paving programme. If permanent paving enhances the value of property the city can make the abutters pay a good share of the cost by putting up the property values along the paved streets.

GRAIN GROWERS REBELLIOUS.

Hon. Mr. Crerar and the leaders of the grain growers political movement are not having a life without troubles. Charges are being made that the leaders made a deal with the Liberal Government of the prairie provinces to keep the grain growers out of provincial politics if said governments would help in the move to side-track Liberal candidates for the Federal House. And there are now signs that the leaders will not be able to keep the farmers in line. In several places the local farmers have taken matters in their own hands and are organizing for provincial action. In two of the prairie provinces the farmers could elect a local government without any trouble, and they would stand a good chance in Manitoba also. With the example of Ontario before them the western farmers evidently see no reason why they should abandon a political certainty for the sake of helping Mr. Crerar's plans which at best only hope to elect a sufficient number of farmers to enable him to make deals with one or other of the old parties.

Montreal is organizing a Rentals Committee which will work in cooperation with the city authorities in an effort to establish harmony between the landlords and the angry tenants. The head of the committee will be the chairman of the Assessment Department at city hall. American cities are also establishing such committees to find out whether landlords are really profiteering. The Montreal committee will be a voluntary organization. In the big cities of Australia years ago Fair Rent Courts were established with legal powers to fix rents.

WHAT THEY SAY

Suppose! (London Free Press.)
 Suppose Canada had refused the appeal of the United States in 1917, that she should set Leon Trotsky free? Just suppose—

Should Lead the Way. (Toronto Globe.)
 Lord Beaverbrook's paper, The Daily Express, calls upon the women to save England by handing over to America their superfluous gold. They might retort by asking him to head the procession.

Attack in the Rear. (Calgary Herald.)
 And the most unkind cut of all comes from China in a cable announcing that the Chinese and Japs have put a discount on Canadian money. In the language of the street, "What do you know about that?"

A Mask on the Boss. (Winnipeg Telegram.)
 It is a pretty phrase of much meaning with which the Journal of Paris comments upon the Wilson-Lansing episode at Washington. The Journal says the event is a "striking example of the autocratic regime with the democratic facade."

Pay of Senators. (Wall Street Journal.)
 Our best reform would be to pay United States Senators on a piece-work basis, with double pay for the repeal of fool statutes.

Earning a New Name. (Providence Journal.)
 Even more Massachusetts towns have switched from prohibition to license. If this keeps up much longer we shall have to refer to the ancient Commonwealth as the Bay Rum State.

America and England. (Baltimore Sun.)
 England's recent exhibition of ill-feeling toward this country has been matched by numerous exhibitions of ill-feeling in this country toward England. In both cases the bitterness expressed has represented the sentiment of but a fraction of the people.

The Spirit That Wins. (Boston Transcript.)
 To insure a worthy representation on the part of the United States in the forthcoming Olympic games will involve an extensive series of preliminary

any try-outs. Every athlete of ability must be given a chance to win the honor of a place on the team. No stone should be left unturned to insure that the Olympic team measure up to the highest standard of American athletic prowess.

A BIT OF VERSE

FEEDING THE BIRDS.
 I'm keeping open house, these days—
 My pensioners the gardens throng.
 Brave feathered minstrels, they, who earn
 Their daily dinners with a song—
 Families of sparrows, pert and small,
 Shy startlings with their plaintive call.

Mr. and Mrs. Blue Jay hold.
 A host of speckled chickadees,
 Gray squirrels, too, come swarming down
 From cozy nests high in the trees,
 Holding up hungry, furry hands
 To me, a friend who understands!

No epicures are these, my guests,
 Who come thus praying to be fed;
 They feast on nuts and grains of corn,
 Crumbs from my table, crusts of bread—
 But, oh, what grateful songs they raise!
 (I'm keeping open house these days.)
 —Mazie V. Caruthers, in N. Y. Times.

A BIT OF FUN

A Fascinating Study.
 The Coed—Do you find the course in civics interesting?
 The Junior—Fine! I can visit all the dance halls, cabarets and things for research work and get away with it.

The Reason.
 The Tourist—Five miles to the village? Great, Scott! What made them build the silly station all that distance from the place?
 The Porter—I really couldn't tell you, sir, unless they thought it might be fair use down here by the railway.—London Opinion.

Exactitude.
 "Hiram," said Mrs. Cornet, "it was going too far for you to say our boy Josh isn't worth his salt."
 "Mebbe 'twas. Salt ain't so dear. But I'll hang to it that the way he's working now Josh ain't worth his sugar."

Father Beat Him There.
 Father—I never smoked when I was your age. Will you be able to tell that to your son when you grow up?
 Willie—Not with such a straight face as you do, father. You beat me there.

His Guess.
 "What did them fellows—whoever they were—shoot at your son-in-law t'other night?" asked an acquaintance.
 "Dunno," replied old man Batters of Fiddle Creek, Ark., "but I sort of figured it mustn't be 'uz of the high price of skunk hides just now."—Kansas City Star.

Bacon.—"When a thing is breaded what do you call it?"
 Robert—"What sort of a thing?"
 "Meat, for instance."
 "Well, when meat is breaded I'd say it was a sandwich."—London Statesman.

A Popular Make.
 "The officer says you used bad language."
 "When he stopped me I was in a tantrum."
 "Never mind the make of the car," Judge.

Teacher: "Willie, have you whispered today without permission?"
 Willie: "Only wunst."
 Teacher: "Johnny, should Willie have said 'wunst'?"
 Johnny: "No'm; he should have said 'twice'."

"Little boy," asked the well meaning reformer, "is that your mamma over yonder with the beautiful set of furs?"
 "Yes, sir," answered the bright lad. "Well, do you know what poor animal it is that has to suffer in order that your mamma might have the furs with which she adorns herself so proudly?"
 "Yes, sir. My papa."

Six-year-old Katherine confided to her mother one day that her sister Jean did not close her eyes during prayer.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.
 Sports. Sid Hunt has went in training to win the ice sliding contest off of Pude Simkins the next time the street gets slippery enough to hold a sliding contest. He is training by eating lots of meat and putting a postscript on his prayers every night.
 Exter! Leroy Shooster Goes Fishing. Last Saturday afternoon the gutter was so full of water it looked like a runaway river, and Leroy Shooster tied a bent pin to a hunk of string and started to fish in it just for the pleasure of fishing without expecting to catch anything, and he was the most surprised of anybody when he caught a kid glove with nothing the matter with it except it didn't have any thumb, and a perfect lady's hat all except for the top being busted open.
 Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Sam Cross ain't allowed to slide down the bannisters in his house any more on account of the ware and tare on his pants.
 Pome by Skinny Martin.
 No Charge for Wishing.
 O I wish I had a pen to rite with
 That role with nullasses insted of ink!
 I would suck on the end between every 2 words,
 O how it would help me to think!
 Sissidy. Mr. Artie Alexander took 3 baths last week, 2 because he had nothing else to do and one because it was Saturday.
 Lost and Found. Nether.

BRITISH BANKERS SEE REAL CAUSE FOR WORRIMENT

Attack Philosophy That National Debts Need be No Source of Worry Provided Money is Not Owed Externally.

The cheering philosophy that national debts need be no source of worry provided the money is not owed externally has but lately achieved popular recognition; and now it is vigorously attacked by Professor J. S. Nicholson in an address to the staff of Barclay's Bank, London, as reported in the Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association.

"If the general effect of the taxation for the debt is to take from the possible savers and give to the probable spenders of the national wealth," says Professor Nicholson, "that wealth will not grow in the same way."

This idea that an internal debt involves no real burden overlooks the great foundational truths regarding the production and the distribution of the national wealth.

Unless you secure by people the fruits of their economic efforts, these efforts will not be forthcoming, or not to the same extent, or not to the extent required for national welfare."

Assuming from this that internal debts constitute a very real problem, he then deals with the suggested remedies. Repudiation of debt and a levy on capital be dismissed as impracticable. The more popular suggestion—a continuance of inflation—he shows to be but a continuance of the cause of the evil. There being no "royal road," therefore, the only solution the professor sees is in larger production on narrower margins of profit.

With regard to the price situation, he says:

"The prices can be reduced (or stayed) either by a limitation of the money or by an increase of the things, or by a mixture of both processes."

"The increase of the things may seem to be the more simple process. But it is not so. When once a nation has got used to unlimited issues of paper the production of the things will never overtake the issues of the new money—unless that new money is limited. And with rising prices, it is always to the interest of producers to check supplies and get monopoly prices. The method of abundance is not given a fair chance."

"In the first place a rigid limitation ought to be put at once on the increase

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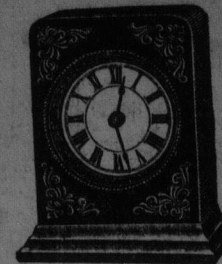
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