

# The St. John Standard

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## THE FAILURE OF THE SENATE.

Sir George Ross former leader of one of the most corrupt political regimes which ever disgraced a Canadian province, has shown himself untrue to the interests of the Empire, and apparently takes pride in his position. In his address in the Senate he spoke in high sounding words of the greatness of the Empire, while at the same time he did his utmost to prevent the natural expression of Canadian loyalty. He has made the Liberal Senate ridiculous in the eyes of true Canadians.

This is not the first occasion on which Sir George Ross has attempted to make use of pretense of loyalty. He adopted a similar policy during his career as leader of the Liberal party in Ontario, and it is now clearly apparent that his protestations and the repeated expressions of loyalty on the part of his Liberal followers, were the veriest sham. All but one of the Liberal followers of Sir George Ross in the Senate responded to the order of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and voted to reject the Borden naval policy. It is a deplorable condition that a small group of party politicians, holding positions which in many cases were secured by them through large contributions to the party funds, should so flout the mandate of the people of Canada. Premier Borden, as a result of the action of these Liberals, should now have no difficulty in introducing whatever reforms he may consider advisable in the constitution of the Upper House. Canada is at the present time in the unenviable position of being ruled by an irresponsible chamber, a condition which was never anticipated nor intended, and which certainly cannot be permitted to continue.

The action of Sir George Ross in adding an impossible amendment to the Borden naval policy, may be described as smart politics. The amendment that the Naval Bill shall not go into effect until it has been approved by the people at the polls, is merely a trick. It is the last attempt on the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, acting through the Liberal Senate, to precipitate an election. Sir George Ross has frequently been described as a smart politician. Indeed his smartness ruined the Liberal party in Ontario, and now it promises to bring about a much needed change in the Canadian Senate. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in moving the six months' hold, was more courageous and showed a better knowledge of political tactics. Sir George Ross's action was weak, inasmuch as it involved a declaration by those who voted for his amendment that in passing the Naval Aid Bill, the House of Commons did not represent the people who elected it. The absurdity of this is apparent. Mr. Borden had a clearly defined mandate from the people to introduce and pass the bill which has been passed. The House of Commons is not yet two years old. It has passed strong and sound legislation of which the people approve. It has shown by the individuality of its ministers, in responsible positions, that the Cabinet possesses a great deal of good material. The country has confidence in the Government and in the majority of representatives in the Commons. Senators differ from members of Parliament in the condition that they are placed in their positions to think for themselves alone, while members of the Commons think and act in the interests of the people who send them to Ottawa.

Sir George Ross's amendment is identical with the policy outlined by Henri Bourassa, the leader of the Nationalist party, during the past year. In an attempt to secure the return of his master to power in the House of Commons, this man makes an alliance with and adopts the doctrine of men who wish to see all ties with Britain severed. The action of the Senate is a direct insult to England. It is a rejection without cause of the request of the British Admiralty, and the man who is responsible was knighted by his sovereign and now shows himself in his old age unworthy of the honor.

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

The long-deferred hope of an open waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans is soon to be realized. On Saturday, May 24th, steam shovels working from opposite direc-

tions removed the last ounce of earth above canal level, joining the continents of North and South America. Naturally considerable work remains to be done, but the opening of the Panama Canal to the shipping of the world, is within easy reach. Such incidents as this, such changes in trade routes as will be involved by the completion of this waterway, have not infrequently witnessed important political readjustments. It was so in the matter of the Suez Canal, and there will, almost certainly, be many subjects for serious consideration before the nations most vitally interested come to final agreement as to the administration of the Panama Canal. That certain differences of opinion have been expressed as to legislation passed by the United States Congress regarding the Canal is not surprising. Great Britain has certain rights, which although brought to the attention of the late government by Sir Edward Grey, have not yet been given final disposition. That the British protest against exemption of United States coastwise shipping from canal tolls is supported on true cause and backed by treaty, is the contention of the British Foreign Minister, who has made it very clear that this protest must be given due consideration. On the other hand, the United States, having expended something like four hundred million dollars in the construction of the canal, naturally desires for itself whatever advantages can possibly be obtained. Since the Canal Bill was passed, the Fourth American Peace Congress, and a very large number of private citizens, have urged on the Washington government the necessity for action towards rescinding the objectionable clause. There has also been continued correspondence between Washington and the British Foreign Office, and it is altogether probable that action will be taken in the near future leading to a satisfactory settlement. Should this not be done, the matter will undoubtedly be submitted to arbitration. Canada is naturally very deeply interested in the opening of this new waterway. It will tend to the rapid development of the West Indian trade with Pacific Coast ports, and will, by affording a new route from the west to Europe, greatly accelerate the growth of the Canadian wheat raising districts. This will mean increased population, a larger home market for the manufactured goods, and consequent benefit to the eastern provinces.

## LOW WAGES AND VICE.

Professor Graham Taylor, of Chicago, who is announced to speak at the conference of Presbyterians now being held in Toronto on "The Social Application of Christianity," has recently been testifying before the O'Hara Vice and Minimum Wage Commission of the Senate of Illinois. He is director of the Chicago Commons Social Settlement and is without doubt one of the world's greatest specialists in sociological work. Prof. Taylor declares that "This commission could do no more valuable service than to recommend the abolition of the bar permit to the public dance halls. When the saloons are closed at midnight in Chicago many of their habitués make their way to the public dance halls, to the destruction of innocent girls." He also testified that having investigated the life stories of 4,420 women and girls implicated in the social evil he discovered that low wages was responsible for only twelve per cent. of all cases of immorality among them. The housing conditions in certain sections of Chicago are wretched and it has been estimated that if the money spent in quenching Chicago's thirst for liquor could be applied to the building of cottage homes in desirable districts nearly thirteen thousand such dwellings, costing \$5,000 each, could be erected annually, thereby affording comfortable housing for 64,000 persons.

It is sometimes affirmed that the outside home with all that its comfort and influence provided for the moulding of the youth into good citizens has gone, at least in the larger centres of population. Those who are engaged in the exacting duties of commercial and industrial life require and demand—often outside the home—opportunities of relaxation and recreation. There are many methods by which such social enjoyment may be provided without countenancing those baneful influences by which human life is degraded. The future of democracy can be assured only by the application of those legislative methods that make for the uplift of the people and the restraint of vice.

The favorable reception by the O'Hara Vice Commission of the recommendations in this direction offered by Prof. Graham Taylor, may be expected to accomplish not a little in the way of overcoming the worst evil now threatening Chicago, and will likewise offer an example to the quickened social conscience of the other cities of the world. The question is: Will Chicago live up to her motto "I will"?

## Women's Canadian Club.

At a meeting of the executive of the Women's Canadian Club held on Friday evening the following were elected members of the club: Miss Louise Langley, Mrs. T. N. Vincent, Miss Elsie Estabrooks, Mrs. A. E. Prince, Miss Beattie A. Thompson, Mrs. Fred A. Bizard, Miss Alice Lingley, Miss Edna Powers, Mrs. T. P. Regan, Mrs. Herbert W. Belding, Mrs. W. I. Fenlon, Miss B. Fenlon.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

#### A CANADIAN VICTORY.

Just a century ago today Canadians won an important naval victory on the Richelieu or Sorel river, the outlet of Lake Champlain. The American sloop-of-war Growler and Eagle, manned by 112 men, under Lieut. Joseph Smith, had entered the Canadian river from the lake, in pursuit of three small British gunboats. The chase was continued for some distance, when three armed row-galleys, manned by stalwart Canadians, appeared on the scene and quickly turned the tide of battle. They opened on the sloops with long 24-pounders. At the same time a Canadian land force, on either side of the river, poured volleys of musketry upon the American vessels. The invaders answered by grape and canister but soon turned and sought safety in flight. With the pursuit thus reversed, a running fight was kept up for four hours, when a heavy shot struck the Eagle below the waterline, tearing a plank, and causing her to sink immediately. The Growler, disabled, ran ashore. The crews of both vessels were made prisoners. Nearly a hundred British were killed or wounded, while the American loss was twenty. The Eagle went down in shallow water and was easily raised, and both of the captured sloops were refitted, renamed the Finch and the Chubb and hoisted the British colors. They were engaged in the battle of Plattsburg the following year, when they were recaptured by the Americans.

#### CENTENARY OF NAVAL DUEL.

A naval duel unique in history was fought off Boston harbor a century ago, June 1, 1813, between the United States' frigate Chesapeake, Capt. Lawrence, and the British frigate Shannon, Capt. Philip Bowes Yerr. Broke, in which the latter was victorious. The story of that historic conflict is told in a play, "The Naval Duel," which is being presented at the Grand Theatre, St. John, N. B., at the present time. The play is a very interesting and dramatic one, and is well worth seeing. It is a play which is well worth seeing.

It was Broke's boarders who first got into the Chesapeake, and carried all before them. The American flag in killed and wounded was while the Shannon's loss was eighty-four. Broke immediately sailed with his prize for Halifax. The remains of Lawrence and his crew were afterwards conveyed from Halifax to Salem, Mass., where funeral honors were paid to them. Lieut. Wallis, a young British officer who assumed command of the Shannon and the Chesapeake after the action, declared that both Lawrence and Broke were "perfectly composed" and died like heroes.

#### FIRST 'GINGS

The first saving banks were opened at Berno, Switzerland, 126 years ago today. "The Social Application of Christianity" has recently been testifying before the O'Hara Vice and Minimum Wage Commission of the Senate of Illinois. He is director of the Chicago Commons Social Settlement and is without doubt one of the world's greatest specialists in sociological work. Prof. Taylor declares that "This commission could do no more valuable service than to recommend the abolition of the bar permit to the public dance halls. When the saloons are closed at midnight in Chicago many of their habitués make their way to the public dance halls, to the destruction of innocent girls." He also testified that having investigated the life stories of 4,420 women and girls implicated in the social evil he discovered that low wages was responsible for only twelve per cent. of all cases of immorality among them. The housing conditions in certain sections of Chicago are wretched and it has been estimated that if the money spent in quenching Chicago's thirst for liquor could be applied to the building of cottage homes in desirable districts nearly thirteen thousand such dwellings, costing \$5,000 each, could be erected annually, thereby affording comfortable housing for 64,000 persons.

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#### MOTHER-OF-FIVE.

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Night after night she watched a little bed,  
Night after night she cooled a fevered head,  
Day after day she guarded little feet,  
Taught little minds the dangers of the street,  
Taught little lips to utter simple prayers;  
Whispered of strength that some day would be theirs,  
And trained them all to use it as they should.  
She gave her babies to the nation's good.

#### She mothered five!

She saw the wrinkles furrowing her brow,  
Yet smiling said, "My boy grows stronger now."  
When pleasures called, she turned away and said,  
"I dare not leave my babies to be fed."  
By stranger's hands; besides they are so small,  
I must be near to answer when they call.

#### She mothered five!

Night after night they sat about her knee,  
And heard her tell of what some day would be.  
From her they learned that in the world outside  
Are cruelty and vice and selfishness and pride;  
From her they learned the wrongs they ought to shun,  
What things to love, what work must still be done.  
She led them through the labyrinth of youth  
And brought five men and women up to truth.

#### She mothered five!

Her name may be unknown save to the few,  
Of her the outside world but little knew;  
But somewhere five are treading virtue's ways,  
Serving the world and brightening its days.  
Somewhere are five, who, tempted,  
Clinging to honor, keeping her memory bright,  
Somewhere this mother toils and is alive,  
No more as one, but in the breasts of five.  
—Edgar A. Guest, in Detroit Free Press.

#### Gibbs—"Don't you think some of those modern dresses are rather immodest?"

"Dibbs—"No; but I'll reserve my opinion of their wearers."  
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