The Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Daily Edition, by Carrier, per year.....$5.00
Daily Edition, by Mail, per year..... 3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition, by Mail, per year..... 1.00
Single Copies Two Cents.

TELEPHONE CALLS:

Business Office.....Main 1722
Editorial and News.....Main 1746

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1912.

MR. FOSTER'S SPEECH.

There seems to be a general concensus of opinion throughout Canada that Hon. George E. Foster made a great speech on the Naval Bill in the House of Commons on Wednesday last. The Montreal Star, among other things, says of Mr. Foster's speech:

"Hon. Mr. Foster can seldom have had a theme as much to his liking as the exposition of the Borden Naval Policy—a policy recognizing 'emergency' and aiming at 'efficiency'—and the exposure of the programme of procrastination upon which the Liberal party entered in 1902, and to which it has just committed itself afresh. Mr. Foster's speech of yesterday had, at all events, all the signs of an address delivered 'con amore.' It was virile, convinced and convincing. It presented succinctly the case for an 'emergency' contribution in this time of crisis and peril; and it literally tore to tatters the policy of the Opposition, which is equally compounded of 'shilly-shally' in the past and 'dilly-dally' for the future.

"No one, however, could have been surprised that Mr. Foster made a great speech on this occasion. He has never been so powerful in the past as when dealing with large and winged questions which have to do with the long development of Canada and her imperishable relations with the British Empire. Since taking office in the present Administration, Mr. Foster has been a very earnest and active worker, and has added not a little to the achievements already to the the credit of the Borden Cabinet. His visits to Britain have been singularly effective in conveying to the people of the United Kingdom a real sense of the fact that a Government of practical Empire-builders is at work in Canada.

"It was fitting that a public man who had lived through our whole history as it is related to this naval question, should give us a brief and comprehensive review of its course. We need to be reminded of how little we have done, and how much we have talked. All the other Colonies have put their shoulders to the wheel—we have stood by and more than hinted that what we wanted was to be asked to 'help drive.' It makes a shameful record—this list of Colonial contributions to Imperial defence, ended with a big zero for Canada. We do not like to hear of it. But frequently do we find that we do not like the most wholesome medicines. Canada is late today—very late—with her contribution; and we do not believe that it will be healthy—politically—for any persons who now further delay our action.

"Very neatly did Mr. Foster disarm that section of the Opposition swordsmen who made a feint of attacking the Borden contribution as a form of 'tribute' which imperils our constitutional autonomy. He pointed out that they themselves proposed to make a contribution 'four times as large' if they were once convinced that a real 'emergency' existed. But if a contribution of thirty-five millions would weaken our autonomy, what would a contribution of four times thirty-five millions do to that basis of our liberties? Clearly the Opposition gave this point wholly away when they pledged themselves to a similar course—greatly augmented—under conditions which the Government believe to exist today. These are the pit-falls of a too enthusiastic oratory, rushing over ground but sketchily studied."

The Toronto Mail and Empire, dealing with Mr. Foster's crushing rejoinder to the Liberal leaders, says:

"What Sir Wilfrid said, what Mr. Graham said, what Dr. Clark said, have been pulverized and swept away by the crushing force of fact and logic with which Mr. Foster smote them. If the Opposition speeches seemed insincere and irrelevant before, they were made to appear ten times more so after Mr. Foster got through with them. It would have been wiser for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to let the vote come on at once and let the question be disposed of without further delay than to leave these words of Mr. Foster's as the last ones for the people to think on.

"To have the hollowness of his objections to the Borden proposals and the real character of his substitute policy exhibited is unpleasant enough for Sir Wilfrid, but scarcely more so than to have his record on the question of Imperial defence read over to him. The refreshing of the public memory in the latter particular, and the disabusing of the public mind in the former cannot be agreeable to him, and certainly cannot be serviceable to him. When all the other Dominions were co-operating with the Mother Country to maintain her naval supremacy Sir Wilfrid Laurier kept on making excuses, and especially pleading autonomy for Canada's non-participation."

WHAT CANADA HAS OFFERED.

The New York American is advising Dr. Wilson, President-elect of the United States, regarding the duty he owes the State and the people in the matter of tariff revision. Now that this important question is in such a position that it must be dealt with, and that at the earliest date possible, there is evidence of wavering among those who howled the loudest during the campaign that the tariff must be revised downwards. If the United States tariff were cut in two it would be about the same then as the Canadian tariff on manufactured goods. The intention of the United States tariff is to prevent altogether the importation of any and all lines of merchandise that is or can be manufactured in the United States. It has been the doctrine of the people of the United States for years that they should make all the articles they consume. This, of course, is not possible, but it was the goal that was always aimed at. Unscrupulous men took advantage of this widespread sentiment to rush the tariff up higher and higher. The greed of these people was so great that the consumer finally got after them and demanded a downward revision.

The Republican party, which has been the willing tool of the spoilsmen, failed to recognize the strength of the demand for tariff revision and is now in a position where it must stand by and watch the Democrats work out their theories. The New York American holds the view that is common among the manufacturing classes regarding the tariff and incidentally of reciprocity. In a recent issue this somewhat sensational newspaper published the following as a part of its leading article: "The mass of Democratic voters believe in the kind of tariff laws that will expand our markets without diminishing our power to produce and deliver the goods." It goes on to explain that "the gist of reciprocity is to make trade, so far as free trade is profitable to us, and to maintain protection to American industries, so far as they need protection."

Mr. Hearst, next to President Taft, was the strongest advocate, across the line, of the Canadian Reciprocity Pact. He went so far as to send his paper into the Province of Quebec by the car load for free circulation. The intention was to influence Canadians to make a bargain which was wholly advantageous to the United States or, as he now puts it, "the gist of reciprocity is to make trade so far as free trade is profitable to us." There is no mention of the other fellow. Our discreet American friend was looking after himself all the time without thought of the effect on the other party to the contract. Talk about wooden nutmegs! What better is the policy of the United States in seeking to gain control of the trade of Canada through a jug-handled reciprocity deal than the Yankee fakir who sold wooden nutmegs for the genuine article?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, according to his friends, is a great statesman. Yet he was deceived into the belief, or said he was, that Canada was making a good bargain with the United States by surrendering its trade control to Washington. For more than a quarter of a century the United States Congress has been making laws for the express purpose of excluding Canadian products from the United States markets. Congress can go no further than it has already gone. Indeed the time has arrived when the retreat has to be sounded. It is the will of the people of the United States that there must be a reduction in the tariff of that country. The ridiculous protection afforded all classes of producers must be curtailed and in due time the United States will have a tariff based on the requirements of the country rather than on the demands of the interested classes. The per capita trade of Canada is about three times that of the United States. This country is not suffering for an outlet for its products. There are good markets for everything produced in Canada and Canadians are more independent of the United States than ever before. Of course there is a general desire for trade expansion in Canada and everyone would be pleased to see our exports to the United States greatly increased.

From the beginning of the trade relations between Canada and the United States the balance of trade has been against Canada, while much that we import from the United States is raw material for our factories, which is not produced in Canada. We still buy far too extensively of manufactured goods which ought to be made in Canada. Since this country began manufacturing for its own needs great strides have been made. Hundreds of important industries have been established, and there has been an industrial growth that has astonished everybody. But there is still room for expansion. Canada is buying too many articles of general consumption from the States that ought to be produced within her own boundaries. The population of Canada is almost double what it was at Confederation and is growing at a more rapid pace than ever before. With the added millions Canada's home market is now a good one, and it is up to the producer to take advantage of it. The best answer to the reciprocity folly is to increase the manufactures of Canada.

"Suburban municipalities," says the Montreal Gazette, "are asking the Legislature for the sanctioning of some extraordinary propositions in the way of contracts for public services. Mount Royal City, as it is to be called, wants, and the committee of the Legislative Assembly has approved of its demand, to give an exclusive franchise for electric lighting for a period of fifteen years. The parish of St. Laurent also wants sanction for a contract which will give for fifteen years exclusive rights to one company to supply electric light and power on a schedule of prices in some cases something like 70 per cent. higher than is paid in the adjoining districts of Montreal. In both cases existing companies, it is understood, now provide service for residents, in accordance with the privileges granted them by the Legislature. It does not look as if the interested councillors were careful of the consumers' interests." There has never been sufficient care exercised by the Canadian Legislatures in granting municipal charters. Too much latitude is given and not enough supervision exercised afterwards.

"Towards the close of a long discussion of the dismissal of postmasters for political activity, in which members of the Opposition cited several cases of recent date, Hon. W. T. White summed up the situation thus," says the Ottawa Citizen in its weekly review of parliamentary work. "Dismissal for active partisanship is not a recent policy. It has been a policy of hon. gentlemen opposite while in power, and I believe it has been a generally recognized policy that officials drawing money for services rendered to the public, irrespective of politics, shall not be permitted to take the part of active partisans during an election." And Mr. Wilcox, of South Essex, quoted the Liberal policy of 1896, wherein "all power of privilege belongs by right of system and precedent to the members of the Liberal party."

"Ever since the Prime Minister's impressive announcement that Canada will place three Dreadnoughts in the Royal Navy the effort of the Opposition has been to becloud the issue, to delay action and so to ensure that nothing shall be done," says the Toronto News. "In their resolute determination by any and every means to prevent anything really worth while being done the anti-Imperialist section of the Liberal party has been at least consistent. Fortunately for the national reputation the great majority of both parties are sick and tired of talk and discussion and want such immediate and effective action as will help to place Canada and the Empire in a position of safety against the period of danger which, according to British naval experts, will face the Imperial authorities between 1915 and 1920."

The Government has acted wisely in defining in their moving picture show regulations what an adult means. It was not the intention of the law to prevent the attendance of children at afternoon performances when they were accompanied by anyone who could be properly admitted to the show. The intention of the law and the regulations connected with it is to prevent children of immature years from being present. There are many good reasons why this should be done, but the best one is that should a fire occur in one of these picture houses the loss of life would be less if only grown people were present than were the house filled with children with no one to look after them.

The establishment of a motor boat ferry service between the East and West sides, after midnight, is a move in the right direction. For many years a night ferry was maintained by the city under lease and was quite extensively used. In those days, however, the steam ferry stopped at 9 p. m. and the only way for belated "Algerines," to get home was to walk around by the bridge (for there were no street cars then) or cross with "Bill" Brayley. When Mr. Brayley died the night service was discontinued, but as the ferry did not stop its regular trips until 11.30 there was not much business done. The winter port has made an all-night service a necessity.

The announcement is made that New Year's eve is to be celebrated in St. John after the manner of New York. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, there is no "Great White Way" in St. John and the "high jinks" which have characterized the welcoming of the New Year on Broadway will be missing in St. John. We are a quiet people here in this city. The majority go to bed early, and those who would linger until the small hours find neither Raine's law hotels nor restaurants with all-night licenses to welcome them. Thirty or forty years ago St. John could have imitated the New York celebration much better than today.

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KLING AND BRESNAHAN ON MARKET

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 20.—The Phillies have entered the field of bidders for Roger Bresnahan, catcher and former manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, and Johnny Kling, who was catcher and manager of the Boston Nationals last season.

Bresnahan has been declared a free agent by the St. Louis club and is at liberty to sign with any club he chooses. Kling, however, is still the property of the Boston club and to get him from the Braves the Phillies would have to hand over several players. Manager Stallings wants players far more than he does cash and Dooin believes that he has the men to offer in exchange for Kling, who will prove tempting to the leaders of the Bostonians.

Manager Dooin of the Phillies, said this afternoon that one of these men is wanted, but, of course, the Phillies could not use both, and Charlie will be well satisfied if he can secure either

It was not until he was given orders by Pres. Wiler a couple of days ago to go ahead with the arrangements for next season that Dooin could do any planning regarding trades or dickering with players. Now that he has been given to understand that he has full power regarding the team, Dooin is mapping out some big plans.

In trying to secure either Kling or Bresnahan, Dooin has a triple purpose: First, to prevent Pittsburg from landing Bresnahan, which would make the strong Pirates look like almost certain pennant winner; second, to prevent Cincinnati from securing Kling, who would, with the addition of Tinker at shortstop, make the Reds more formidable than they have been for years, and third, to add strength to his own team.

Death Speech Stopped.

Montreal, Dec. 20.—"People of Montreal, as I mount the scaffold," said Carlo Di Battista this morning, attempting to make a final statement. That was as far as the murderer of Salvatore Macaruso was allowed to go. Hangman Ellis intervened by slipping on the noose. "Wait a minute, I want to speak," said Battista. His words were smothered by the black cap as Ellis jerked it over his head and down about his shoulders. The drop was pulled three seconds later.

Must Stop Unrest.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—Aroused by the attacks upon foreign lives and property in Mexico, as a result of the revolution there, the United States ambassador to the Mexican capital leaves here today, with a demand that Mexico take prompt action to put an end to the existing unrest.

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