

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1913.

## A JUST COMPLAINT.

A great deal of complaint is heard from persons living along the river that the various steamboats running from St. John are not showing a disposition to cater to the public requirements in connection with the so-called "boat stops." Day after day steamers to and from St. John refuse to stop when signalled by the passengers who wish to be taken on board. It frequently happens at many of the boat stops on the lower part of the river that parties wishing to go up to other points see two or three boats pass them, refusing to take them on board.

Instances have been reported during the past two weeks where people wishing to go to Fredericton and elsewhere have signalled the steamers on which they desired to travel but have not been permitted to embark. These people have been put to a great deal of inconvenience in having to drive some several miles to the nearest railway station in order to catch the train. Men along the river who are waiting on the boats explain to passengers that they can do nothing in the matter and cannot understand why the crews of the steamers refuse to make stops when signalled. The owners of these steamboats should give instructions that intending passengers are to be accommodated. It would be in their own interest and for the public benefit.

## PARCEL POST.

The remarkable success which has attended the introduction of the parcel post system in the United States has led Mr. Burleson, the postmaster general under the Wilson administration, to inaugurate several improvements which will still further increase the system's utility. In the first three months of operation 150,000,000 parcels were handled, and the rates, fixed experimentally, yielded a very substantial margin of profit. A few months were sufficient to demonstrate that much better and cheaper service could be given.

On July 1st various important amendments came into effect. One of these provided for the introduction of a cash-on-delivery service, enabling goods to be forwarded by post, the government undertaking the responsibility of collecting the price and its remittance to the consignee at post-office order rates. Its introduction immediately resulted in a great increase in business, and the service has proved popular, not only with merchants, but among the public generally. Another improvement which has added to the volume of business, is the reduction of the insurance fee, which has resulted in doubling the number of valuable packages entrusted to the parcel service.

Convinced of the value of an efficient parcel post system, the postmaster general recently announced that on and after August 15th, in the first and second zones—or within a radius of 150 miles—the weight limit of parcels will be 20 pounds, instead of 11 pounds, and that the rates for weight over the first pound will be cut down to about half. As the business within the 150 miles radius is one-third of the whole, these new concessions constitute a most important extension of the service. Eventually, it is expected to make the weight limit over the whole system 20 pounds, and later to increase that limit to 100 pounds, or close to the limit used in Germany and other European countries. The new improvements will benefit particularly farmers and growers of garden truck, fruit, and similar commodities, and consumers in the cities. The addition of 9 pounds to the weight limit is relatively of more benefit to this direct trading in edibles than the 11 pound limit was, because the list of commodities eligible for posting is more than double.

Mr. Burleson is convinced that in a few years the postal service will handle all of the small package business, and also that the business will be handled at even lower rates than are now proposed. The improvements in the system in United States will doubtless assist the Canadian Postal Department when the parcel post is established in Canada next year. It has been found across the border that once the service is well organized and in operation changes can readily be made which will add to its efficiency as a public utility.

## THE PREMIER OF AUSTRALIA.

Some interesting details in relation to the career of Mr. James Cook, who has succeeded Mr. Fisher as Prime Minister of Australia, are given in a recent issue of the Vancouver News-Advertiser. It appears that both Mr. Fisher and Mr. Cook were coal miners in early life and had much the same start. Mr. Cook was born in England and was employed in the coal mines of New South Wales until he became secretary and organizer of the labor union. He was thirty years old when the first labor party was formed, and

he became a member of the executive. After a time there came a division in the ranks of the party, one portion promoting the caucus and council plan, with solemn pledges to support the platform and candidates of the machine. This developed into the party lately in power, whose ministers were not chosen by the Premier, but allotted for in the council of the labor organization. Mr. Cook demanded more independence, allied himself with the Liberals, and became a member of the Free Trade Government, led by Mr. Reid.

This was before the federation of the Australian colonies. In Federal politics Mr. Cook became a strong anti-socialist, and was quite ready to join in the alliance of the Protectionists and Free Traders under Mr. Deakin in opposition to the Socialist-Labor party, led by Mr. Fisher. He was Minister of Defence under Mr. Deakin, served as his first lieutenant in the second opposition, and when Mr. Deakin resigned the command Mr. Cook was chosen to succeed him. So it has come about that though originally a laborer, and one of the leaders in the old-fashioned Labor party, Mr. Cook has led the successful assault on the Labor ministry, and is now maintaining a Protectionist tariff.

## THE ADVANTAGE.

Should the proposed reduction in the United States tariff become law its chief advantage to Canadians over the defeated reciprocity agreement will be that it will not tie our hands financially. The Taft-Felding compact was nominally terminable on one year's notice, but once in actual operation, it would not have proved so. Had the Canadian people ratified the arrangement on September 11th, 1911, all tariff legislation at Ottawa would thenceforth have been virtually dictated from Washington.

The smaller partner would have been at the mercy of the larger partner and we should not have been free to grant special tariff favors to other parts of the Empire or to make trade treaties with other nations without the consent of the United States. In fact powerful American interests would have been in a position to force further concessions from us by threatening reprisals if we did not agree. If it happens that some of our farmers benefit in some degree by free access to United States markets, they will still enjoy tariff protection themselves and Canada will not be in pawn to the adjoining country.

## CURRENT COMMENT

**A Tribute to the Press.**  
 (Montreal Gazette).

Sir Ian Hamilton, departing from Canada, spoke of the good treatment he had received from the Canadian newspapers. His words, he said, had not been distorted and accuracy of quotation had been a feature of the reports. General Hamilton evidently did not say anything he had reason to regret, and the way he speaks suggests that if he had been in jail and many dead, we would have taken the responsibility of it. There are others like him also, and they are among the best. The man who writes: "Your reporter did not quite get the meaning of my remarks," very often means that he finds what he said is not working the way he expected.

**No Intervention.**  
 (Winnipeg Telegram).

In 1845, with little pretence of excuse the United States armies swept over Mexico. Santa Anna, the Mexican capital, today with thousands of Americans in the turbulent republic appealing for help, hundreds of them in jail and many dead. We abstain from intervention. The spirit of Sam Houston and Colonel Bowie dead!

**Fear Losing the Trade.**  
 (London Free Press).

Liberals in Parliament derided the trade agreement with the West Indies as being without benefits to this country, but the United States is viewing it with considerable apprehension as having the effect of diverting trade that country now enjoys with the islands.

**Japan's Designs.**  
 (Toronto Mail and Empire).

That Japan is responsible for the rebellion in China is a belief held in some quarters. The theory being that Japan wishes to see China reduced to such a situation as to be at the mercy of a helping hand of the kind Japanese hold out to Corea.

**Foxy Farmers.**  
 (Toronto Star).

Silver-black fox farming is said to be on the increase in New Ontario. Most of the silver-black foxes encountered down here are mining promoters from Cobalt or Porcupine with artful prospectuses in their pockets.

## BARON LEIGH.

Francis Dudley, third Baron Leigh, a recent American visitor, was born fifty-eight years ago today at Stoneleigh Abbey, in Kent, England. He married Frances-Etiana Eschewith of New York, who died in 1909, leaving him \$1,500,000. The Leighs have long been prominent in England. Sir Peter Leigh bore the standard of the Black Prince at Crecy, and his son, Sir Peter, was slain at Agincourt in 1415.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

**THE TRAPPIST MONASTERIES.**  
 The modern constitution of the Order of Reformed Cistercians, or of the Strict Observance, was adopted eleven years ago today, and governs the five Trappist monasteries in Canada. The first Trappist monk came to America early in the nineteenth century, having been driven from France. In 1815 Father Vincent de Paul and seven brothers established a mission among the Indians of Nova Scotia, and ten years later founded the monastery of Petit Clairvaux in that province.

The most celebrated of the monasteries of the Trappists is that at Oka, on the Ottawa river in Quebec, founded in 1881 by monks from France. The members of this community, known as the Abbots of Notre Dame du Lac, are subjected to the severest discipline. Most of them are engaged in agricultural activities, and although their hours are long and their toil severe, they subsist on a purely vegetarian diet. The use of alcohol is permitted only to those who are very ill. Absolute silence is the rule for all except a few who must meet visitors and carry on business affairs with the outside world. A sign language is used to direct the monks at their tasks. Strict obedience to superior and absolute regard for all of the rules of the order are exacted, and punishment and penance follow the minutest infraction of the law.

During the summer months, on all working days, the monks rise at 2 o'clock, pray, and engage in other devotions until 6 o'clock, work until noon and from 1 until 6 o'clock, and retire at 8 o'clock. Breakfast consists of a cup of tea, bread and fruit, and two other meals, of vegetables, fruits, bread and milk, are partaken of. During the month of Lent, the meat is abolished. Despite this severe regimen—or possibly because of it—most of the monks reach a ripe old age.

## FIRST THINGS

**FEATS AT NIAGARA.**  
 The first of Blondin's foolhardy feats at Niagara was performed fifty-four years ago today, when he was a rope stager across the gorge between the falls and the whirlpool rapids. He carried a balancing pole forty feet long, weighing forty-five pounds. Several times thereafter he repeated the performance, once traversing a narrow arched, and on another occasion carrying a man, Harry Colcord, his manager. In 1860 Blondin walked across on stilts, and in 1874 he crossed the falls on a plank. Many tight and slack rope performances were given, and among them a woman, Maria Spelterina, who crossed with baskets on her feet. The first attempt to swim the whirling rapids was made thirty years ago this month by Capt. Webb, who lost his life in the foolhardy venture. Five years later a Philadelphia copper, named Graham, went safely through the whirlpool rapids in a barrel. A Mrs. Taylor was the first to go over the falls themselves, which she accomplished a dozen years ago, strapped in a specially made barrel.

## THE PASSING DAY

**AMERICAN FREEMASONRY.**  
 American Freemasonry, with its more than a million and a half of members in the United States and Canada, will celebrate its 180th birthday today, July 29, 1735, a provincial grand lodge, called St. John's, and also a private lodge, were established in Boston by Henry Price, who, in 1734, was constituted grand master over all North America. In 1834 Benjamin Franklin, who is supposed to have been initiated in England, published the Masonic constitution. The fraternity soon spread to other colonies and to Canada, and numbered many distinguished men as members. George Washington became a master Mason in 1753. The first Masonic hall in America was built in Philadelphia in 1735.

The early lodges derived their authority from the grand lodges of England and Scotland, but after the Revolution independent grand lodges were organized in the various States. Each State and Province of Canada now has a grand lodge, that of New York having the largest membership, 175,000, with Illinois second, the total for the United States and British America being 1,222,475.

These lodges are in full affiliation with the English grand lodge, which, with the Duke of Connaught as Grand Master, has constituted a grand progress in recent years. American Freemasons maintain fraternal relations with the lodges of all countries, except the Grand Orient of France, which is a free-thinking and anti-clerical organization.

## THE HUMAN PROCESSION

**JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS.**  
 John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, United States senator and former leader of the Democratic minority in the House at Washington, will pass his fifty-ninth birthday today. Age and long experience in politics have given him wisdom and wit, and his ability as a tongue-lasher has won for him the respect and fear of the opposition. His political dignity has never weighed heavily on John Sharp, and in a fight he prefers rough and tumble to the Marquis of Queensbury code. Now that he is pushing in the Senate, he has a card index to the most sensitive spots of every one of his senatorial opponents, and knows exactly where to land a blow to make it most effective.

Senator Williams was born in Memphis, Tenn., July 30, 1854, and was educated at Kentucky Military Institute, the University of the South, the University of Virginia, and the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Before he went to Washington as a congressman twenty years ago he was a cotton planter as well as a lawyer, and he is still actively interested in agriculture.

## OPHELIA'S SLATE



## IN LIGHTER VEIN

**NOT EXPECTED.**  
 It was long after eight, and young Spooner was late; and she nervously tapped with her feet. Her nerves were a-thrill, and she couldn't keep still, but kept rising to look down the street.

She would rush to her room for a touch of perfume or to straighten a lock some away; or she'd pick up a book, give a cursory look, then back to the porch she would fly.

It was after half-past, when at last and at last he finally came into sight. And she carelessly said: "Oh, it's you, is it, Ned? I forgot you were coming tonight." —Puck.

## She Said It.

"You are no gentleman," she wrote, "if you think I said such a thing as she said you said I said I had said."

"Dear girl," he answered, "you must not think I think you think you must be the kind of girl I think you must be if you said such a thing as you said she said I said you said you had said."

It seems he knew she knew he knew she said just what she said he had heard her say, but with intuitive feminine tact she accepted his apology.—Life.

## A Good Guess.

Marks (with newspaper)—It says here that a new physical ailment in the "movie eye." What kind of an eye is that?

Parks—One with the film before it, probably.

## He Did.

"Ever take a vapor bath?"

"I've spent ten minutes in a telephone booth."

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## INTERESTING EVIDENCE FIRE INQUIRY

Investigation into Bagnes and Riley Continued Yesterday.

In the police court yesterday afternoon further evidence was given in the investigation. The case was begun at 2:35 and lasted until next Tuesday, when an adjournment was taken. Mrs. Geldart called.

A. A. Wilson was present in court. J. Harvey Brown and Raymond acted for John MacCorder. Baxter was present in court.

Six witnesses were examined. The evidence given failed to fully explain the reasons for the fire. The first witness sworn to was Mrs. Quilly, who at the time of the fire was nursing at the John Maynes. She said: "I was in the house for three days in the house on the night of the fire and between 9 and 10 o'clock I went to bed. I was telling him there was a fire in the house with two small children."

When questioned, Mrs. Quilly said: "I was not out of bed between 9 and 11 o'clock on the night of the fire, for she had frequently about the house at that time."

Mr. Wilson—"What time did you see Mr. Maynes?"

Ans—"It was not dark. I judge about nine o'clock. He was with Mr. White a few minutes that night. When I told him of the fire he called central and asked for Mr. White. He was not in the house, but he did not go for an hour or more after I called. He went out after his uncle, Mr. Maynes, came home. It was after twelve. William Maynes the barn when the fire alarm sounded. He was then called. He testified that he saw Mr. Maynes until nine o'clock that evening. He questioned as to what they were doing that evening. He said he spent most of the time in the boiler plant in Riley's mill, corner of Haymarket Square, Road. He said: "I left him at 10 o'clock going into his house. I went to the corner and took a cab."

Miss Geldart was called to the stand and said: "I reside on the street. On the night of the fire I was in the house. I saw a man break the window in the boiler plant. I saw him through the window. He had some sort of a light. He looked about. He came out a few minutes and went up towards the depot. After some distance he took off his coat and hid it."

"He came back and after he went in again. When he came in he again removed his coat. He brushed it and went down Stanley street."

Recorder Baxter—"What time was that?"

Ans—"He was short for his time. At Mr. Baxter's suggestion both Mr. Maynes and Mr. Brabant requested to stand up and were declared that neither of them resembled the man she described."

Questioned by Mr. Baxter, Mrs. Geldart said: "The person under suspicion, with that questioned a certain man was the guilty person, the firebug was still in the house. Mr. Geldart encountered the man on the street, and he of the first to whom she is referring to the fire."

Referring to the man seen building, witness said: "He was out of my sight when breaking out of the roof alarm was then ringing in."

Fred Forester was next called. "I was at my home in the street at the time of the fire. I was not out. Some time before Mr. Maynes said that he offered \$2,000 to burn the mill. He said: 'I had learned had mentioned my name in the newspaper. He said: 'I want to see him. He said: 'I will tell me in private. I told him about the \$2,000. He said: 'I will call, said: "After visiting at Mr. Maynes' house, I arrived about 10:30 o'clock on the night of the fire."

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