

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1913.

## FOOD TAXES.

The Food Tax Bogy, which is persistently used as an argument in the Old Country against the Unionist policy of Tariff Reform and Imperial Preference is an ingenious attempt to frighten the British workman. The term "Food Taxes" is employed at every turn. It is significant, however, that the taxes on tea, sugar and other necessities imposed by a so-called Free Trade Government are never referred to as Food Taxes. They are designated "necessary revenue," yet the British workman is by this method paying food taxes under the worst possible conditions.

The official figures given in the report of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for the year ended March 31, 1912, show that in that year £10,476,775 was paid in taxes on articles every one of which formed in some way or other part of the British working man's food. The figures are as follows:

CUSTOMS.			
Article.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue.	
Chicory .....	13s. 3d. per cwt.	43,745	
Cocoa .....	1d. per lb.	331,763	
Coffee .....	14s. per cwt.	186,314	
Currents .....	2s. per cwt.	127,074	
Figs, plums and prunes .....	7s. per cwt.	117,915	
Raisins .....	7s. per cwt.	234,143	
Sugar .....	10d. to 1s. 10d. per cwt.	2,913,449	
Molasses and glucose .....	5d. to 1s. 2d. per cwt.	132,283	
Saccharin, saccharin mixtures, and articles containing sugar .....	7d. per oz.	97,367	
Tea .....	5d. per lb.	6,172,279	
Total Food Duties .....		£10,406,332	
EXCISE.			
Article.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue.	
Glucose .....	10d. to 1s. 2d. per cwt.	£60,203	
Saccharin .....	7d. per oz.	8,796	
Chicory .....	12s. 1d. per cwt.	1,444	
Total Food Duties .....		£70,443	
Total Customs and Excise Duties on Food, £10,476,775.			

Every penny of this £10,476,775 was paid by the British consumer because the articles taxed are not produced in the United Kingdom. There is no competition, and therefore the full duty is added to the price. In other words, the full tax irrespective of fluctuations in price was paid by the British working man and his family on every cup of tea, cocoa or coffee they drank, on every ounce of sugar they used, and on every raisin or currant they ate. These food taxes are a direct burden upon the consumer and of no benefit to the British producer.

## A REPORT ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The report of a Royal Commission on Municipal Government, which was recently presented to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council of British Columbia, embodies some conclusions of general interest. The commission, according to the Vernon News, made an exhaustive enquiry over a wide area last year into municipal affairs. The report is said to be one of the most able documents of the kind ever submitted and is expected to have a far reaching effect upon future municipal legislation in the Pacific Province.

It is noteworthy that the Commissioners show a decided preference for a Board of Control. Their investigations lead them to conclude that this system has advantages over Commission Government. After carefully considering the proposal that cities in British Columbia should be given the power to abolish the present form of government by Mayor and Council, and elect a small body of paid Commissioners to conduct their affairs, the Commissioners reached the conclusion that such a change would not be advisable, though this plan has been adopted in a number of United States cities. They found that such a system placed too much uncontrolled power in the hands of a few men, and that the tendency would be strongly towards one-man government. They found also that the "recall" supposed to guard against this danger, was clumsy and ineffective.

A Board of Control they consider in many cases desirable. On this point the report proceeds as follows:

"If, for any reason, it should become necessary in any municipality to relieve the Council, to a greater extent than at present, of their executive duties we would suggest the formation of a Board of Control. Such Boards are in existence in several of the largest cities of Canada, such as Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. In Winnipeg the Council is composed of a Mayor, four councillors and fourteen aldermen. The Mayor and controllers who form the Board of Control are elected annually by vote of the entire city. One alderman is elected annually from each of the seven wards in which the city is divided, and holds office for a term of two years. Persons eligible for the election as controllers must be holders of property rated on the assessment roll of the city at the value of \$2,000, over and above all incumbrances against the same. The council as a whole is the legislative body and carries on its legislative work through standing committees in the usual way. The Board of Control is the executive body, and as such deals with all financial matters; regulates and supervises expenditures, revenues and investments; directs and controls departments and nominates heads of departments; prepares specifications, advertises for tenders for work, materials and supplies required by the city; inspects and reports to the Council upon all municipal work being carried on or in progress; and generally administers the affairs of the city, except the public schools, public parks and the police and license departments. The Winnipeg scheme appears to have worked very satisfactorily.

"We would recommend that municipalities having a population of 1500 or over shall have power to pass a by-law which must be submitted to the electors in the same way as any referendum—providing:

"(a) That the Council shall consist of the Mayor or Mayor and two to four councillors, and

"(b) That the Mayor or Mayor and two to four councillors, and that the aldermen or councillors and controllers shall be elected for a term of two years, half retiring each year;

"(c) That the controllers shall give all their

time to the business of the municipality and shall receive remuneration for their services;

"(d) That the Board of Control (which shall consist of the Mayor or Mayor and the controllers) shall have power to employ or dismiss all employees of the city, including heads of departments;

"(e) That the Board of Control shall have full authority over all the executive work of the city, subject to the right of the Council to reject, vary or refer back its actions by two-thirds vote."

Many other subjects of interest are covered in the report of the Commissioners, indicating diligent and careful research. They find generally that the Municipal Act of the Province in many minor respects is capable of improvement. Their recommendations are dealt with in a draft of the Act which will be submitted to the law officers of the Crown. They attach to their report a transcript of the evidence given at the various sittings held in British Columbia, and also voluminous notes of information on municipal matters collected by them during their travels beyond the confines of the Province.

## TRUST RESTRAINT.

Seven bills prepared by Governor Wilson of New Jersey, and President-elect, with the assistance of Chancellor Walker and Judge Van Syckel, have been introduced into the State Legislature. The first imposes punishment by imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine for any corporation, firm or individual who enters into an agreement to limit production or increase prices, to prevent competition, to control prices, to preclude free and unrestricted competition, and includes any secret oral agreement for these purposes. Directors of companies participating in any of the prohibited acts are to be treated as individuals, and, in addition, the charter of the offending corporation may be revoked.

The second bill prohibits the issue of stock upon fictitious values of property, and requires a fair, bona fide valuation. The third makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, to organize a corporation with intent to promote or conduct any project or acquire a monopoly. Repeal of the law allowing holding companies is asked in the fourth bill, which, however, permits of holding and voting stock in other companies already owned. The fifth bill prevents merged companies from future acquisition of the stock of other companies. In the sixth bill the approval of the Public Utilities Commission must be procured to all mergers, and the seventh bill prohibits discrimination in prices, except for cost of transportation and similar allowable differences.

Whatever may be the fate of these bills in the New Jersey Legislature, their introduction is important, as indicative of the attitude of the President-elect towards some of the later developments of corporation practice in the United States. Commenting upon the situation the Toronto World justly points out that these bills show Mr. Wilson to be keenly alive to the menace of combinations organized to exploit the public, and they attack the evil in the only effective way—that of fixing responsibility on individuals in the cases where directors seek to shield themselves behind fictions of law.

## MR. PUGSLEY'S ARGUMENT.

(Toronto News.)

If Mr. Pugsley cared as much for Canada and the Empire as he does for party and office he would not content himself in Parliament for the immediate construction of Canadian Dreadnoughts in Canadian waters. He would admit that the only way in which the Dominion can speedily prepare for effective participation in naval defence is by having the first Canadian battleships built by British experts in Old Country yards. Years will be required for the organization of a local navy and by that time the crisis in European waters may be a thing of the past.

Meantime under the Borden plan the British Admiralty is to give Canadian shipyards a start by placing with them orders for smaller classes of British war vessels. In time we can build our own Dreadnoughts. From the standpoint of promptness and effectiveness the Government naval programme is the only one that stands a chance of carrying the judgment of the country.

Mr. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Railways, believes in the municipal control of highways and streets. He intimates that the question will come before Parliament in the form of an amendment to the Railway Act during the present session. It is proposed that the new legislation should make it clear that power transmission companies, telephone companies and telegraph companies incorporated prior to the passage of the present Railway Act shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Railway Board. The control of highways has become a topic of great interest, particularly in Ontario, since the decision of the Privy Council, in the recent litigation between the Niagara Power Company and the Town of North Toronto, upheld the contention of the company that it had a right to erect poles on certain streets contrary to the wish of the municipality. The situation as a result of this judgment has been brought to the attention of the Administration.

## Current Comment

Intensive Farming.

(Edmonton Journal.)

At the meeting of the Experimental Union in Guelph the other day a former employee of the Ontario Agricultural College told how, by growing vegetables and small fruit, he had made an acre of land return him \$125 after supplying his family all season. He then bought one and a half acres more, and secured a few bees. His profit the next season was \$2,700. These results were all duly verified. There is no doubt that we have a great deal to learn yet in Canada about the possibilities of intensive farming.

## New Schools in the West.

(Montreal Herald.)

New schools are being opened at the rate of six per week in Alberta and naturally the provincial authorities are at their wits' ends to get teachers for them. They will get them easily enough from Eastern Canada unless we pay better salaries here. The West has interfered sadly with the established order of things in the East in more than one instance. After all, however, it is about time that the school teacher came into his, or her, own.

## A Mighty Agricultural Force.

(London Free Press.)

One thousand students are enrolled at the Ontario Agricultural College this week in courses long and short, and even this is not the busiest time of the year for that institution, for there is a time in the college year when half as many more are receiving instruction of one kind and another. The O. A. C. has become a mighty educational force in the farm life of this Province.

## B. C.'s Clean Sweep.

(Victoria Colonist.)

For the first time in the history of Canada since there was such a thing as a Liberal Party, a Legislature met yesterday without a Liberal in it. Our friends on the other side cannot complain of the lack of an open field for the exercise of their political talents. If any young Liberal aspires to eminence, there is no one in the way.

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AMERICA'S UNDETECTED CRIME.

Scathing comments upon American educational systems were made by Lieut-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, at an educational conference at Cambridge Wells, says The London Standard. The Chief Scout observed that we were too apt in this country to talk of the future of the nation as dependent upon the army and navy and armaments, whereas really it depended upon commercial integrity and development.

He was glad that teachers were now developing their own character, and forcing the education authorities to give them a freer hand in the training of boys. He was glad to say that he could see, day by day, a bet-

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ter nation being developed. During his tour of the world he had been impressed by the fact that in the Colonies they were endeavoring to get character incorporated into scholastic training just as much as mere academic knowledge. In America the school machinery appeared to be perfect, but in looking for the results outside he had been struck by the awful state of crime in the great cities, particularly the enormous number of murders, only 2 per cent. of which were ever detected and punished. Another result he noticed of the lack of character training in America was the tremendous number of fires and railway accidents the great majority of which were due to sheer carelessness. He was hearing of three railway accidents while in the country, and if he were a man of any value he would never go to America again (laughter). There had been a good many meddlers like himself in the question of late in this country. As Sir Ian Hamilton had recently pointed out, the 20 millions sterling spent each year on education in England had done nothing towards creating character. There was no particular line for the development of character laid down in our educational system.

The gloomy prophecies that boys would not make the personal sacrifices necessary if the Scout movement were to be a success had been abundantly disproved by experience. Today the number of lads who had by their own free will and energy and initiative passed the Boy Scouts' test was enormous (applause). Five hundred cases had already occurred in which Boy Scouts had saved life, often at great personal risk (cheers). The fact that the movement was being taken up by county councils and experimenters generally was a great

incentive to them to go on as they were going, and they intended to get into closer touch with the education authorities and assist them as much as they could (hear, hear). From the public schools they did not expect much help, because tradition was against the adoption of any novelty like the Boy Scouts. Still, many of the country schools were displaying much enthusiasm for the movement.

COULDN'T LET GO. Two fishermen employed in a factory in Maine were given a holiday and went to enjoy themselves hunting. After walking through the woods for some time one of them happened to look up a pine tree and saw a large catamount.

"Holy smokes, Pat, look at him," said Mike.

"How'd on, Mike, that's a Maltese. I know where we can get four dollars for him. I'll go up and chase him down and you ketch him when he comes down," said Patrick.

Pat did so and coming down the tree looking down and saw Mike and the cat describing circles among the leaves and dust. "What's the matter, Mike, can't you hang on to him?" he asked.

"O, I can hang on to him all right, but I can't let go of him," said Mike. —From Norman E. Mack's National Monthly.

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## WESTMO

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This and Other

Westmorla

Campaign

Moncton, Jan. 25

land County Council in session this week the usual routine several important items were reported of tuberculosis, which had last year. This had the establishment either by the county with one or more has also been arranged for of Moncton to address on tuberculosis of the county booklets and "Don't in the schools and at

The matter of emergency alms house and on up but after was decided to postpone the July session. The county was in a good mood with this work done and