

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1919.

GREAT BUSINESS.

Under the old method of accounting in Provincial Finances, liabilities existing at the end of any fiscal year were a set-off against uncollected revenues due for that year. When the Foster administration took office it decided to inaugurate a new system of accounting, and in doing so employed auditors to go over the books. On instructions from the incoming administration those auditors utterly disregarded the assets referred to in the form of uncollected revenues, but for political purposes dug up every possible cent of outstanding liability. This liability, the Foster party, in utter disregard of the assets against it, chose to speak of as a deficit accumulated by the previous administration. The total of that sum was in the vicinity of \$570,000. By juggling the accounts the new administration boosted this total to \$863,000, which amount is now, and always has been, disputed by members of the previous administration, and which amount is in no way correct.

Mr. Foster announced his intention of starting with a clean slate, and decided to issue debentures to the amount which he stated was the outstanding liability. This gave him the great advantage of wiping off all that liability and of enjoying the benefit of the large amount of uncollected revenue which he knew was coming in, which did come in, and which has come to the credit of the Foster administration since it took office. But when the time came for issuing the debentures to cover the alleged deficit did Mr. Foster make the bond issue \$570,000, as he should have done? Did he make the bond issue \$863,000, as he himself, as his hired accountants and other members of his administration, said it was? Did he make it \$700,000, as the Telegram naively proclaimed it was? He did not. He issued bonds to the extent of \$789,000, which bond issue was \$89,000 more than the Telegram itself now claims the old deficit to have been, which bond issue was \$125,000 more than Mr. Foster has repeatedly stated as the amount of that deficit, and which bond issue was \$217,000 more than the actual liabilities of the province at the time the Foster party came to power. What has been done with that \$27,000, or the \$125,000, or the \$217,000, whichever Mr. Foster now chooses to designate as the excess amount? The Auditor-General's reports give these figures exactly as quoted by The Standard. The last financial statement issued only a few weeks ago by the Foster administration contains the item of \$789,000 to cover the alleged deficit. And even assuming that Mr. Foster himself is right in his own repeated statements—which he is—he has still to account for \$125,000 excess bond issue not justified by anything that his accountants found, and he is responsible for the uncollected revenues of that year which should have been credited to that year, but have been credited to a later period.

What has become of his announced intention to credit to the revenues of any particular year the amounts due for that year? Why has he not credited to 1917 with the sums belonging to the time of the previous administration, but received after his party came into power? And why has he not credited his own administration in 1918 with revenues which should have been placed to the credit of the previous administration during the past several years? It is a fine idea to keep each year's accounts separate, but in practice it has worked out that the Murray administration has been charged with all liabilities incurred by it in anticipation of revenues then due, and it is deprived of the credit of those revenues which were received by the Foster Government and used by them to aid in the preparation of misleading statements.

CIVIC FINANCES.

Commissioner Fisher is annoyed because his associates in the Council kept off some \$22,000.00 from the estimates which he presented for this present year. He should not feel this way about it, for the sum of \$160,456.00 which it has been decided to recommend is more money than his department ever enjoyed before, and with this he should be able to get along very nicely during the year. The real reason why the other commissioners reduced Mr. Fisher's original estimates was not that they felt each particular item to be unnecessary, but because of the fact that in the Public Works Department expenditure of \$69,722.00, in 1917 it got rid of \$102,981.00, in 1918, \$113,421.00, in 1917, \$137,041.00, and in 1918, \$148,640.00. The present year's assessment is recommended despite Mr. Fisher's views, and totalling \$160,456, shows an increase of \$11,856.00 over last year, which is a very generous increase in view of the fact that the streets are as filthy as ever, and that we seem to be getting no farther ahead with any definite programme of improvements. A jump from \$80,627.00, in 1912, to \$160,496.00 in 1919, or 100 per cent. increase in seven

years, is a rate of increased expenditure which ought to satisfy even the most extravagant communitarian.

It was possible at yesterday's committee meeting at City Hall to have laid the various increases which have been practically decided upon for the present year, and the figures are staggering. In the various City departments there have been added to the assessment totalling \$102,981.00, unexpended balances, etc., amounting to an increase of \$105,665.17, to be added to the additional estimate for the Board of School Trustees of \$85,000.00, giving an increase of \$193,646.17. The County Council increased its expenditures to such an extent that St. John's share of the excess amount to \$65,739.91. The City has an additional estimate for other purposes amounting to a total of \$25,945.93. And this in the case of decreased valuation for municipal purposes indicates a marked increase in the rate of taxation.

A UNION SERVICE.

On Thursday evening of this week there will be held in Trinity church, the first of what will probably be a series of union services in which clergymen of all denominations have been invited to participate. The first step toward this service was taken by the Church of England clergy of this city who, at their recent synodical meeting, discussed the subject and appointed a small committee to carry it into effect. That committee met and drafted a service of interdenominational union service, and kept in mind the principle that a union service to be most beneficial should conform to the customs of the church in which it is held. That service in Trinity will be in the character of a service of prayer and intercession, and will be held in the church of the denomination of the pastor, who will be assisted by a small committee of laymen and women. The service will be held in the church of the denomination of the pastor, who will be assisted by a small committee of laymen and women. The service will be held in the church of the denomination of the pastor, who will be assisted by a small committee of laymen and women.

THAT HEALTH ACT.

Northumberland, Restigouche and Kent are all lined up in opposition to the Health Bill which burdens municipalities with ridiculous taxation for something they do not need. A rather peculiar state of affairs now exists with respect to this measure. In view of the attitude of the province, the Bill does not provide any means by which the government can force these municipalities to assess for the amounts demanded and there will be some lively scenes before Dr. Roberts is able to enforce these payments. This means calls for the presentation of estimates to County Councils before 31st December of each year, and this has not been done in any case, as yet here were the Health Boards constituted until after Jan. 1st.

WHAT THEY SAY

Dr. Shin Plaster. (Kingston Whig.) If the Kaiser, as Harden says, was a mere fool in the war, then we suppose the Crown Prince was a mere money wench!

Grab Bag. (Edmonton Bulletin.) It is about time some allied statesmen explained to the neutral nations that to be by-standers belong not to the spoils.

Investigation. (Ottawa Journal.) If each returning transport is to be followed by an investigation it is to be hoped the returning home won't be held up till the probe is finished or the men will never get back.

The Real Cause. (Hamilton Herald.) The growth of Bolshevism is stimulated by such vulgar ostentation as that of Maybelle Gilman Corey, a former chorus girl, now the wife of a millionaire, who is parading and getting herself photographed in a \$75,000 sable coat.

The Trouble. (Sagary Herald.) Sir W. L. Laurier says he is willing to quit the leadership of the

liberal party if the party wants a younger man. But the trouble with the party is that while it wants a new leader it is unable to decide on the action.

Good Actor.

(Edmonton Bulletin.) Having secured reelection two years ago on the claim that he had kept the United States out of the war, President Wilson is now receiving an even more remarkable expression of approval from the people of Europe because he got the United States into the war.

May Be Differences of Opinion.

(New York Herald.) According to one Senator it is costing the United States \$300,000 a day for war work which Congress has ordered stopped, and all because the president has been unable to sign the cancelling act. "Traveling is expensive nowadays," comments the Evening Sun, which remark may start something.

Plenty of Room.

(Halifax Chronicle.) The "Cost of Living" branch of the Department of Labor, having made an investigation, reports that the chief excuse for the exorbitant prices of oranges has been removed, and oranges should be "decidedly lower." Now watch them tumble in the usual way! At \$1.20 a dozen there is lots of room for the drop.

A Plank in the Farmers' Platform. (Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.) There is a plank in the Farmers' Platform which declares that every farmer for tariff protection should be heard publicly before a special committee of parliament. This is a declaration so just as to require no argument in support of it. But the justice of a policy will not be put into operation. Organization is necessary to make justice prevail.

Let Us Forget.

(New York Herald.) Herr Ebert is out with the typical Rasche slogan of Germany, sign of the armistice on the basis of President Wilson's fourteen points. Germany did nothing of the sort. It is the armistice and Germany, and solely because the German military leaders realized that the only possible alternative was the annihilation of the German armies.

The Peril of Poland.

(Boston Globe.) The strength of the League of Nations plan and the peril of the balance of power system are expressed in the risks of Poland. Poland is the bulwark between radical Russia and a radicalized Germany. Let Poland be converted into a puppet state under a conservative cabinet government and it might easily join the Bolshevik and make a formidable base of Moscow and the Spartakus of Germany.

Nuff Said.

(Singapore Times.) The National Anthem was being played last night at a Singapore hotel. Three boorish persons were in the hotel and they kept their seats when all others rose. Two gentlemen, long past military age, decided that the churlish should rise to guard their own skins if they would not rise for gentler reasons. They took two of the offenders in hand, and a British sailor looked on the other efficient. We need not describe the proceedings. They were brief.

Feeding the German Mind.

(Vossische Zeitung.) The English election campaign has numerous districts led to the point at which the state of a Socialist propaganda. At all public meetings the demand was made for the immediate establishment of a Socialist republic, and rousing cheers for the Russian and the German revolutions. Everywhere vehement denunciations were made of the armistice which was forced on Germany and Austria, the terms of which were branded as "infamous" and "bestial."

Discovery of Anthracite.

(Peoples' Journal.) It is only a little more than a hundred years since anthracite coal has been used as fuel, the first attempts to burn it proving unsuccessful, says the Peoples' Journal. Judge Jesse Fell of Pull House, Wilkes-Barre, Penna., was convinced that "stone coal" as it was called, would burn, but his arguments were laughed at. Finally convinced that what was necessary was a strong draft, Judge Fell built a fireplace of brick with a bottom and front of iron grating. Piling under it. Soon the coal was a red-hot mass and the neighbors revel in the marvel at the sight and the grateful warmth. That was in February, 1808!

A BIT OF VERSE

"Out of My Sunshine," Saturday Evening Post. When Maceo's great monarch paid Diogenes a visit, He doubtless went in pomp arrayed To play the great What-is-it; But such a tawdry show to see And every schoolboy knows what he remarked to Alexander.

Now, no philosopher am I; No tub do I inhabit; But when into my fourteen-by-Some furtive-featured rabbit intrudes, and interrupts my ease With some salacious glander, I plagiarize diogenes In chat with Alexander.

Approached by some pelfervid soul Who feels a mighty mission To turn my thoughts to Birth Control, Or Worldwide Prohibition, Or Death to Cats of all Degrees, Or some such propaganda, I answer as Diogenes Replied to Alexander.

Accosted by some Mournful Mike, Who has a pet affliction, And starts to tell me what it's like Without the least restriction, And pratt of sundry remedies, And their results, with candor, I tell him what Diogenes Told mighty Alexander.

There's lots of sunshine, all about

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Us fellows was playing ball erround by Smits meat store, being baskets of things outside, and all of a sudden the ball went crooked and knocked over a basket of grapes and then bounced behind some baskets of potatoes, and Mr. Smit came running out with a featureless expression, and us fellows ran like anything. And we went erround and sat on my front steps wishing we had the ball. Puds Simkins saying, How about if one of us disguised himself so Mr. Smit wouldn't reckon on him and went erround and started to lean over the potatoes as if he was trying to see if they was good enuff to buy and then all of a sudden reached down and got the ball.

G, let Sam Cross take off his glasses and do it, Mr. Smit never saw him without his glasses, I sed. With all of the fellows thawt it was a grate idee, Shiny Martin saying, Go ahead, Sam, yours as disguised as anything without your glasses, and Leroy Shooter saying, Go ahead, Sam, G wizz, I wouldn't hardly know you myself if you came up to me all of a sudden with your glasses off and asked me who you was.

And Sam took off his glasses to leave the fellows see if he looked much different, which we all sed he did, so Sam left Puds Simkins hold his glasses and went erround to try it, us fellows all going down with him as far as the corner and peeking erround to see how it worked, and Sam wawked rite up to the potatoes and leaning away over them as if he was going to find out if they was er good by smelling them, and Mr. Smit ran out of the store and aimed a kick at him, Sam making a good target on account of stooping over, and he jumped jest in time to pervent a fearse collision and came running back like the dickins, saying, Hay, I thawt you fellows sed he wouldn't reckon on me, you fellows are all rite, you are. Meaning we wasent, and Leroy Shooter sed, He must of saw you with your glasses off before, thats the reason.

And we got up a game of prizzners base.

For chaps like me to bask in, Wer't not too oft from us shut out By guests we didn't ask in; And I, for one, am prone to seize The role of expropriator, And chide them as Diogenes Chid bumptious Alexander.

A BIT OF FUN

Now He Remembered Him. "Did your rich uncle remember you in his will?" "Not personally. But he endowed a home for the indigent. I fancy he expected me to collect my share that way."

Pa's Reply. "Pa, if you ever had it to do over again would you still marry ma?" "Can't you children let me have a little peace without starting trouble with your foolish questions?"

The Status of Fido. Mrs. A.—And is the dog a pet of your husband's too? A. B.—Yes; it is his pet aversion.

A Wise Son. Nurse—Robbie, stop doing that; your mother would be very cross. Robbie—Oh, not so very. Ma sent what you call a really bad-tempered woman.

The Young Folks. Today grandpa didn't get a hoot For old age you can bet; He dresses in a college suit, And smokes a cigarette.

And grandpa, too, has proven that She's stylish and alert; Just gaze upon her youthful hat, Behold her knee-length skirt. Newark Advocate.

Time was when folks grew old and gray, They spent their days in reading; But they pinched grandma yesterday For automobile speeding.

Mrs. Exe—Why do you say that Mrs. Brown is very thoughtless? Mrs. Wye—She had the parson to dinner the other evening and she served deviled eggs.—Boston Transcript.

Not in the Chimney. She—Did you hear the chimney swallow? Embarrassed Youth—That wasn't the chimney, Ethel; that was L.—Lampoon.

Advice. Get up and try again, young man. Don't sit around and sigh; I'd rather be a failure than The chap who didn't try.

What He Thought. Bobby—Are you the tarried nurse mother said was coming? Nurse—Yes, dear, I'm the trained nurse. Bobby—Let's see you do some of your tricks—Exchange.

The Vanished Joy. For those glad days I sit and yearn When we bought coal That used to burn.

Happy Thought. Leading Man (to the stranded troupe)—Nothing to do but walk back to dear old Broadway, methinks.

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UNITED SERVICE OF INTERSESSION

Will be Held in Trinity Church Thursday Evening—Interesting Programme Arranged

The united service of intercession to Almighty God for the reunion of Christendom will be held in Trinity Church on Thursday evening at eight o'clock. After a period of silent prayer and the singing of a hymn, Bishop Richardson as representing the Anglicans will lead in the recitation of the Litany. The scriptures will be read by Dr. Hutchinson of Main Street Baptist church. Rev. H. A. Goodwin of Centenary will bid the people to silent prayer while Rev. F. S. Dowling of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church will offer the concluding prayers. There will be no choir, but the hymns will be of a congregational character. It is expected that the seating capacity of the church will be taxed to its utmost. Visiting ministers who will meet in the school house adjoining the church will enter the sacred edifice in a body and will be accommodated in the choir stalls.

WOUNDED MEN REACHED HOME

The New Brunswick contingent from the hospital ship Essequibo, arrived in this city yesterday morning, shortly after seven o'clock, and were

