

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1920.

MACKENZIE KING'S PARROT CRY.

With "damnable iteration" (to quote the Mail and Empire) the Hon. Mackenzie King calls out for a general election. It is a suicidal idea on his part, for when the general election does come, it will mean the end of his political ambitions.

At the convention of the National Liberal Party which met a year ago he was selected as leader. Yet the Premier of all the Provinces in which the Liberals were in power voted for Mr. Fielding. They desired to have at the head of their party a man who had not to live down the somewhat adverse fame of being a campaigner against the Union Government and the Military Service Act when so many of his peers were fighting for the defence of his country.

Mr. Fielding, to his lasting credit be it said, gave the Union Government and the Military Service Act his loyal support, and if he had been as young a man as Mr. King he would, we doubt not, have been at the front. It was for the very reason that he did so identically himself with the national efforts to win the war that he received less than a majority of the votes cast at the convention.

Mr. King was his successful rival. That the new leader would be received with open arms in any Ontario constituency was not to be expected. He showed no repentance for his stand against the nation's war policy, and the fact that the convention which gave him the leadership showed so strong a bias against a Liberal supporter of that war policy did not recommend him to Liberals of Ontario.

THE LIBERAL POLICY. What of the Liberal fiscal policy which, according to Hon. Mr. King, is neither free trade, nor protection, nor a tariff for revenue only? The fiscal lumbags propose a policy that will at one and the same time combine the three plans. There are to be substantial reductions of duties on the necessities of life, on the food, clothing, and shelter of the people, and upon the instruments of production of agriculture; this is the bait for the farmers. Then it is explained that the large revenue needs of the Federal Treasury will entail the raising of much money by indirect taxation through a customs tariff, and the Liberal leader assures manufacturers that they have nothing to fear because "in revising the tariff to this end, care will be taken of the position and needs of all the industries in our country."

THE MANNIX QUESTION. Resolutions continue to be passed at meetings of sympathizers with Ireland's so-called war, on the subject of Archbishop Mannix and the course adopted by the British Government in regard to him. Doubts, of course, are being expressed about the wisdom of deserting the hostile cleric's desire to wait for trial. He has, it is argued, the rights of a British citizen; he is therefore entitled to claim the hospitality of Ireland as well as of any part of the United Kingdom. But this is a fallacious view of the case. The right analogy is this—Would any citizen admit the right of a fellow, even if it were a relative, who had declared his intention to make all the mischief he could in his house, who had spurned kinship and exited in alien sympathies and in hostile purposes, to claim absolute freedom of action in the house which he had beset with firearms, and which he intended, if he could, to destroy? That is the sort of insolence and freedom which Dr. Mannix demands. Ministers would only convince him of the accuracy of his opprobrious epithets if they permitted him to do as he pleased. He is a turbulent guest; he is an avowed enemy of Britain; he is a firebrand of whom Australia would be glad to be rid; and Liverpool will provide a healthier atmosphere for him than Cork.

It is charged against him in the Sydney Press that he is chiefly responsible for the creation of religious strife in the Dominion. How much of the primary principles of Christianity he understands may be judged by his prescription for the prosperity of religion. When he landed in Australia in 1912 he claimed that the Roman Catholic Church was justified in employing physical coercion in the treatment of heretics. There was a storm of protest; but the twentieth century priest and the old institution—he would not recall his words; he maintained that there could be no argument about it; that Papal author-

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source of almost as much bloodshed, slaughter and misery to humanity as Emperor William's efforts to make war.

Dr. Warwick condemned much of the milk coming to the city, on the ground that it was too dirty for use. Is anything being done to remedy conditions, or is the matter being allowed to drift? In the meanwhile "Baby Clinics" are being held, much to the amusement of the general public, at which mothers are being taught what to do, what to avoid, and the babies' staple food remains "too dirty for use." The Department of Health is a wonderful institution!

Cambridge Thornton is to be commended on the stand he has taken with regard to crowded street cars. It is little less than a scandal the manner in which some of the cars are packed, until the occupants are like sardines in a can. Naturally, everyone wants to get home with as little delay as possible, but the remedy should be more cars and run at more frequent intervals. Perhaps the one-man car would fit in here.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Font to Draw Tears. (London Morning Post.) There is in the Fiji Islands a font which can only be described as the most pathetic in the world. It is made out of the pieces of rock on which little children were brained before being eaten! The results produced by the missionaries on these islands wrung from Charles Darwin this tribute: "They have abolished human sacrifices and the power of an idolatrous priesthood, and a system of property unchangeable in any part of the world." Missionaries at work in the islands not many years back often saw the ovens where the cannibals baked their victims.

A German Compulsion. (London Westminster Gazette.) In Princess Blucher's interesting book I read that towards the end of the war, the Germans took to praising the English. One who did so with extreme cordiality was Baron von Mittenbecher, the censor of correspondence at Hulleben. He was looking on, one day, at a football match between two barrack teams. It was a very hotly contested match! and at the end of it, the Baron turned to the captain of the camp, who was standing near him, and remarked genially: "When I see the way you fellows play football, I cease to feel any surprise at our failure to beat the contemptible little army."

Soldiers As Teachers. (Toronto Globe.) Two hundred returned soldiers took advantage of the means offered by Hon. Dr. Cuddy, when Minister of Education, to train for the teaching profession; and nearly all of them have been successful in passing the courses prescribed for certificates. The knowledge of life and habits of discipline acquired during their military experience have enhanced their value as teachers, and many of the larger cities have already availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain their services for male vacancies on the staffs. The present Minister of Education, Hon. Mr. Grant, has carried out the scheme in a broad way, and this recognition of patriotic work should prove of great profit to the schools of Ontario.

A BIT OF VERSE. AT THE END OF THE OLD BROWN ROAD. Dusky brown in the shade, golden brown in the sun, The old road, turn by turn, cleaves through the fir wood's gloom, Making a path for our feet, carpeted thick from the loom Of the tireless weaving years, at their task that is never done; Clearing a path for our feet, to the blue of the fathomless sky, And the gracious friendliness of white clouds floating by, Far, so far, across the sky, in its awful loveliness!

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. A few days ago we referred in these columns to the proposal of Mr. Robert Donald that there should be an institute for the proper teaching of the English language, with headquarters in London and Washington. On this language question the London Daily Express has this to say: "Those well-intentioned leagues and clubs which are always talking about the unity of the English-speaking races, the bond of a common language and the rest, are a delusion and a snare. There is no common language between the peoples; it is the very special resemblance which makes the gap. Kipling well described the American in London who 'heard men talking a tongue superficially like his own, which on inquiry turned out to be something quite different.'" An American says: "I've got you"—meaning I understand. The Englishman thinks he has been discovered in some heinous deception. The language resemblance is, in fact, a barrier rather than a bond. Imperfections of expression which we pardon in the Frenchman or the Italian we cannot pardon in each other. These organizations like the English-speaking Union have therefore a lot to answer for in preaching to two nations a thing which is not, and so confounding the very real understanding which might exist between them."

THE LAUGH LINE. No man who is not truly happy is truly successful. The girl in love who has a rival should keep an eye on her—and if the rival is a widow she should keep both eyes on her.

No Danger Yet. "Aren't you afraid your cook will leave you to marry that fellow who gives her so much attention?" asked Mrs. White. "Oh, no," replied Mrs. Brown, "not so long as he stays in the taxi-cab-floater-and-theatre stage."

Little Tommy—"I say, father, what is meant by 'beating money'?" Father—"When it's raining cats and dogs."

Then. When Mary sold her little lamb, It made the scholars laugh; She bought a bathing suit that showed She had a little calf.

Benny's Note Book

Last Saturday I went down town to meet pop so he could buy me a new suit, with he had me a peppy check suit with slinky pockets, saying, Well, Benny, how do you feel now? Hungry, I said, and pop said, So do I, I'm as hungry as a bear, I think there's a restaurant in this neighborhood somewhere. With we started to look, and after a while we came to a little white place with a sign on it saying, The White Rabbit, Meals Served. Ah, here's a place, said pop. And we went in and sat down at a little bit of a table, on account of all the tables being little bits of ones, and a waiter lady came over and pop said, What's good today? Well, you can have a stuffed egg on lettuce, they're nice, or you can have a garden sandwich with a slice of lemon, they're nice, and the waiter lady, she says they are, but in hungry, said pop, and the waiter lady said, Well, you might try a tomato filled with chicken salad, they're very nice, or a slice of lettuce sandwich with mayonnaise, they're extremely nice, and pop said, Let's see, let's see, now I know why this place is called the white rabbit, good nice, girl, when I said I was hungry I didn't mean I was a hungry rabbit. It's none of my business what you want, said the waiter lady, and pop said, Well, do I look like a rabbit? You might to some people, said the waiter lady. O, is that so, do you eat beer yourself? said pop. I certainly do, said the waiter lady, and pop said, I thought your ears looked kind of long, can you wiggle your nose? And he got up and waddled out, the following him, and we went to a regular restaurant and pop ate a plate of noodle soup and roast beef and mashed potatoes and I ate lum stew and ice cream.

A Friendly(?) Hint. Miss Creach—"You, I'm continually breaking into song." Miss Marie—"If you'd ever got the key, you wouldn't have to break in." Answer.

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What He Deserved. "Sir, your daughter has promised to marry me." "Well, don't come to me for sympathy."

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