

## The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 11, 1911.

## A QUESTION OF ACCURACY.

Although the address by Mr. Sherman on commission rule in Cedar Rapids did not contain any arguments to show that this form of government would be an advantage to this city, his visit here enabled The Standard to obtain in an interview much information on the conditions which prevailed in his home town, and which led up to the adoption of the commission plan. The questions put to Mr. Sherman were mainly directed along these lines, because The Standard sought confirmation, at first hand, of its contention that the evils which required such a drastic remedy in most commission cities are non-existent in St. John, and that reforms, effectively carried out, rather than a revolution of the present system of government, will adequately meet the case.

It is necessary to refer to this matter because the Times has charged The Standard with misrepresenting what Mr. Sherman said. As we have endeavored to deal with this whole question fairly, and give a plain statement of facts, we do not propose to submit to any such imputation. The Times said on this point:— "The Standard utterly misrepresents the conditions in Cedar Rapids prior to the adoption of the commission plan, and misrepresents also what Mr. Sherman said about them. Mr. Sherman distinctly stated that 'there were no extraordinary conditions.'"

The following extracts from The Standard's interview with Mr. Sherman are self-explanatory:— "Conditions became so bad through the practice of 'not making the civic expenditures fit the civic revenues' that there was not a dollar in the civic treasury, and 'in order to save the city's credit it was necessary to issue bonds to meet the accrued obligations. The city workmen were paid by warrants or cheques, and 'there was no money to pay the cheques if presented. It was always possible, however, for the workmen to 'sell their warrants for 85 or 90 cents on the dollar, as there were a number of men in the City of Cedar Rapids who were willing to profit by the city's financial straits by cashing the warrants at the discount. These warrants were carried by the city at an interest rate of 6 per cent, so the purchase of them at a discount of 10 or 15 per cent, was a good investment 'for the purchasers.'"

Further on in the interview, appears the following:— "According to him (Mr. Sherman), however, the 'city of Cedar Rapids was afflicted with several evils from which St. John is exempt. Civic politics were 'run to a certain extent on party lines and the machinery of the Republican and Democratic organizations 'with their ward caucuses and slates were introduced 'into the election contests. He did not think that 'party lines were as closely drawn in the civic elections as in the state or national contests, but admitted that each party had their candidates and canvassed for them actively. Another evil which the Cedar Rapids people had to combat in their civic elections 'was the ward system. 'We had the ward system of government,' said Mr. Sherman. 'Candidates for aldermen were elected by the vote of their wards alone, and this we found was a drawback. The at large system such as prevails in St. John is much better than that.'"

Mr. Sherman was also interviewed by the Telegraph, which is not carrying on any investigations, but is a whole hearted supporter of commission rule for St. John. No reference is made in this interview to the hopelessly bankrupt condition to which Cedar Rapids was brought, nor to the political evils existing there from which St. John is exempt. There was no attempt to draw a parallel, for no parallel is possible. The Chamberlain's annual financial statement submitted to the Common Council this week is sufficient indication of St. John's prosperity under the present system of government.

One other point remains to be cleared up. The Times alleges that Mr. Sherman was misrepresented by The Standard, and that he did not make the statements attributed to him. Prior to the opening of the meeting the representative of The Standard who wrote the interview met Mr. Sherman in the Opera House, and the latter congratulated The Standard on the fair and accurate report of his remarks. He was kind enough to add that it was the best report of an interview with him that had appeared in a St. John newspaper.

The Standard does not presume to dictate to the Times, but mildly suggests that if, in future, it confines its attention to advocating commission instead of indulging in wild and inaccurate statements and attacks upon those who do not agree with it, it will probably do less harm to the cause it is so ostentatiously endeavoring to support.

## MAJOR HODGINS VINDICATED.

The significance of the fact that by the recent award of the arbitrators something like half a million dollars is to be deducted from contractors and sub-contractors on the Eastern Division of the National Transcontinental, on account of over-classification and allowance for overbreak, should not be overlooked. For this half a million dollars, plucked like a brand from the burning, the public has to thank Major Hodgins, who resigned from the position of government engineer on the grounds that over-classification was being permitted, regardless of his protests. The Hodgins charges were ridiculed by the government and its supporters. When finally they became the subject of parliamentary discussion, all kinds of devices were employed to discredit Major Hodgins' evidence, and it was finally affirmed

and resolved, with due solemnity, that there had been no over-classification and no irregularities on the part of the contractors.

There the matter would have ended but for the fact that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company was interested in the cost of the National Transcontinental Railway by reason of the fact that it was required to pay interest on the total cost of the eastern section. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company was not disposed to pay interest on padded expenditures, and the Government apparently was not in a position to resist its demands for an investigation by experts. The investigation was held by engineers chosen by the Government, and now their report is before the public. The net result of the investigation is that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company will be relieved of interest charges on half a million dollars, and what, obviously, was a matter of secondary importance to the Government, the country will be half a million dollars in pocket.

The public will not overlook the significance of the proceeding, which is this:—That not one dollar of the half million would ever have been recovered but for the fact that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company refused to pay interest on contractors' graft. The public interest was absolutely ignored. A parliamentary committee, enforced by an obliging majority of Liberal members, declared that the public had received a square deal, and there the matter would have rested had not a powerful railway corporation been vitally interested in its resurrection.

Since the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company's service to the public was purely incidental to its desire to serve itself, the public owes no thanks to that corporation for the public money that contractors have been forced to disgorge. The public does owe thanks to Major Hodgins, who resigned his position rather than be a consenting party to the grafting operations of contractors on the Transcontinental Railway. It owes also a reckoning with the Government which denied Major Hodgins an honest investigation of his charges, and regardless of the public interest, confirmed the contractors in graft, which now, through another agency, they have been compelled to at least partially surrender.

## DRAUGHTS AND COLDS.

Most of us having been brought up to regard a draught from an open window as providing one of the chief items in a doctor's bill, and it is somewhat of a shock to learn on the authority of a member of the medical profession, that draughts are necessary and even beneficial to the human being. Such is the opinion of Dr. Ronald Campbell Macfie, as set out in a recent issue of the "British Medical Journal." There can be no doubt, he says, that up to quite recently most physicians held draughts in abhorrence; but lately the lessons learned from the work of open-air sanatoria have made many converts to the open window. In spite of all this, the fear of draughts is prevalent in all classes, and 99 per cent. of the colds that flesh is heir to are attributed to their evil influence.

Dr. Macfie's definition of a draught is rather formidable. It is, he writes, "a concentrated current of sensibly cold air impinging upon a localized portion of the skin." This current of air, it is pointed out, may cool the blood and lower its resisting power, thus allowing the bacteria responsible for the cold to do their work the more readily; but the cold is not due as a rule to the draught directly. Unless these bacteria are present in the system, the draught may blow its hardest and produce no cold. "Draughts there must be, draughts there should be," says Dr. Macfie, and it is much easier to accustom our systems to them than to dodge them. The average endeavor to 'escape their influence, the closing of windows and doors, etc., only favors the growth of the bacteria, thus rendering dangerous a draught that otherwise might be quite harmless. It is in places that abound in germs, in stuffy, dusty rooms, and in churches that draughts are most fatal. In sanatoria, where open doors and windows are part of the treatment, but where bacteria are rare, colds seldom occur. The man who endeavors to avoid colds by avoiding all draughts, concludes Dr. Macfie, not only catches more than his share of colds, but possesses less than his share of health and vigor.

Another medical man, writing in the same journal, relates a method by which he has not only cured colds and catarrh, but has greatly lessened his susceptibility to them. In view of the fact that at this season of the year a cold in the head is part of nearly everybody's equipment, the cure is worth putting on record. The doctor writes:—"By accident I discovered that if, immediately on feeling the first symptoms, I practised taking a deep breath now and then, say, every five or ten minutes for half an hour, the attack did not proceed, and many times have I satisfied myself of the utility of the method. It has since then been rare for me to have more than one catarrhal cold in six months, where before I was having one every two or three weeks." So with freedom from bacteria and plenty of clean air and deep breathing, we can henceforth laugh at draughts and throw physic to the dogs.

## Current Comment

(Montreal Star.)

If the masonry work on the piers of the remodeled Quebec bridge is finished by November of this year—which is apparently out of the question—and the board of experts can agree among themselves as to how the bridge is to be built—which there is no reason to suppose will be the case—there is said to be a chance that the work may be completed by December of 1914. If a thing has to be done, there is nothing like doing it quickly.

(Bangor News.)

After "Salome" in St. Louis certain social reformers tied clothes round a statue in a millionaire's yard. A similar but more permanent reform is under way in connection with the statutory on the Pennsylvania State capital. In this case the clothes will be of stone and fastened on with iron spikes.

(Calgary Herald.)

It is an interesting coincidence that the three attorney-generals (or attorneys-general) of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, Messrs. Turgon, Mitchell and Bowser, come from three adjoining counties of New Brunswick.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

An Iowa woman who looked into the barn and saw her husband hanging to a crossbeam, is reported to have exclaimed:— "Land sakes! So that's where my clothesline went to!"

(New York Herald.)

A man in jail after a spree woke up to find he had inherited \$10,000. Probably only a small percentage of what he thought he was worth before the police interfered.

(Vancouver Province.)

Calgary has figured out a population of 125,000 five years hence, passing Hamilton, Ottawa and London, while they are not looking.

## The Standard's Old Reporter

Leslie Maclellan.

"I see the Thunderer ridicules the idea of holding a plebiscite on any question not proposed or sanctioned by itself," observed Uncle Josh. "Yet it assures us that the plebiscite is an essential feature of the commission form of government, and a satisfactory safeguard against inefficiency or graft of any kind. That being so, one would think it would cry, 'Come one with your plebiscite. The more the merrier. Let us get all the train-loads possible in the new method of governing the city.'"

Humble Pie.

"Have you noticed that the Thunderer is appealing to the people to support the commission scheme, because the mayor is supposed to be in favor of it," says Uncle Josh. "Such an appeal comes with poor grace from that particular monitor of public opinion. The Thunderer has held the mayor up to scorn and ridiculed the results of the civic investigations over which his worship presided. Now that the Thunderer has become sufficiently enlightened to recognize that his worship merits the confidence which is reposed in him by the great majority of citizens, it ought to call attention to the fact that only last winter he told the young men of Centenary church that St. John enjoyed an honest and efficient government, and that he did not think a change was necessary."

Tribune of the Times.

"The Thunderer does not tell us the names of the members in the council who favor the commission scheme," says Uncle Josh. "But it might have mentioned that two of the city fathers who have identified themselves with this movement distinguished themselves by voting against increased wages to the firemen and other poorly paid civic employees and then going out of their way to secure increases of salaries for highly paid officials."

## WHY DAN M'GEE GIVES ADVICE

Dodd's Kidney Pills Quickly Cured His Backache and Lumbago

Well Known Nova Scotia Man Rescued from the Clutches of Kidney Disease tells Others to use Dodd's Kidney Pills.

James River, Antigonish, Co., N. S., Feb. 10.—(Special).—Suffering from Backache, with eyes puffed and swollen, and occasional attacks of Lumbago helping to make his life miserable, Dan M'Gee, a well known resident of this place, turned to Dodd's Kidney Pills and is today a strong, healthy man once more. It is hardly to be wondered at that he says:— "I advise all persons suffering with Backache or Lumbago to use Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Mr. M'Gee realized from his symptoms that his kidneys were claiming him for his own. For two months he waited, like many another, for it to go away of its own accord. It didn't go. It simply got worse. Then he turned to the natural cure, Dodd's Kidney Pills, and the disease vanished because it had to. No case of Kidney Disease can stand before Dodd's Kidney Pills. They always cure.

Rheumatism, Lumbago, Dropsy, Diabetes and Bright's Disease are some of the deadly results of diseased kidneys. You can safeguard yourself against any or all of them by using Dodd's Kidney Pills.

## DISASTERS

Odessa, Feb. 10.—The cattle steamer Sturman is lost at sea and the 11 persons on board, among them a number of women, wives and daughters of the cattlemen owning the vessel, have perished. Wreckage of the vessel was found upon the coast by life guards. It is reported that a steam barge foundered with the Sturman and three sailors were drowned.

29 Lost of Crew.

Cassack, West Australia, Feb. 10.—The Russian bark Glenbank was wrecked off here today and all except one of the crew of thirty were lost. The Glenbank, laden with copper ore, was bound up the coast when driven upon a reef by a squall. The sole survivor reached land after being lashed to a spar for forty-eight hours. The Glenbank was a vessel of 1,550 tons, built at Glasgow in 1893, and hailed from the Finnish port of Nystrand.

Committed For Trial.

The preliminary examination of John McGloin, Robt. Elliott and Frank Sprague, charged with breaking and entering P. M. O'Neill's wholesale liquor premises on North Wharf, on Sunday night, and stealing a quantity of liquor and some cash, was concluded in the police court yesterday morning and all three prisoners were committed for trial. William Daley was fined \$2 for violation of the regulations for commoners on the L. C. R. depot. Officer Scovill Smith made the report.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Exmouth St. Methodist Church.—Class meetings Sunday morning at 9.45. Preaching service at 11 a. m. Rev. G. A. Ross. Sunday school pastor's Bible class at 2.30 p. m. Preaching service at 7 p. m., pastor, Rev. W. W. Brewer. Don't forget the song service at close of regular evening service.

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**RED**  
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It is not ex  
Flour made

**DIE**

**CARTER**—In this  
inst., after a sho  
Carter, aged 39  
Funeral today from  
Service begins at  
terment in Fern

**PARKS**—In this c  
her residence,  
Margaret J. da  
William Parks.  
Funeral on Monday  
from her late re  
begins at 2.30 o

**WILLIS**—In this  
inst., Mary Will  
Willis, leaving f  
two sons to mour  
Funeral from the  
Theodore Wilkin  
Square, Sunday  
o'clock.

**MARCUS**—Sudden  
Public Hospital,  
cus, aged 47.  
Funeral on Sunday  
sharp from his re

**THOMPSON**—At  
Thursday, Feb. 9  
in the 58th year  
a wife, seven so  
ters to mourn.  
(Boston). British  
Nova Scotia pap  
Funeral on Sunday  
his late residence

If you are suffe  
vision our scientifi  
the cause and a p  
glasses will make  
D. BOYANER,