

### The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor. THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY Henry de Clerque, 111 West 44th St., Chicago; Louis Klebahn, 1 West 44th St., New York; Freeman & Co., 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1919.

#### STRENGTH IN UNION.

The parliamentary session which was brought to a close yesterday has been notable chiefly for the strengthening of Union Government. During the last few months of last winter there were many who freely predicted that Union would not live until midsummer, that there was bound to be a return to party lines, that scores of Liberals would go back to their old allegiance and that Conservatives would be glad to aid in the reorganization of the Conservative party. The parliamentary session has produced an entirely different result. Union is more stable than ever, defections from the ranks have been few and have failed to include all those who were expected to withdraw from the support of the Government. The losses sustained by the administration in this respect have been much less serious than anticipated and are not sufficient to materially reduce the majority of Union administration in the house. Nor will there be further withdrawals of any account, for while there yet remain in the ranks of Government supporters several whose personal inclinations are toward party politics as before the war, these sentiments are not sufficiently strong to induce those members to give up what must be recognized as in the best interests of Canada, in order to participate in a purely partisan struggle. Despite the absence during the greater part of the session of Sir R. L. Borden, through whose personality alone Union was made possible, the Government has come through not merely with flying colors, but in the enjoyment of a wider measure of respect than before the session opened. It has accomplished during the past few months a very great deal of work and, while there are some features in our national life which continue in an unsatisfactory state, improvements in these lines can now readily be brought about by legislative action, but must come gradually with the restoration of pre-war conditions.

#### A SECOND CONVENTION.

Honorable W. E. Foster, who signs himself "New Brunswick Representative of the National Liberal Committee," has called a convention for St. John-Albert to be held this week for the purpose of choosing delegates to the National Liberal Convention at Ottawa in August. This action is taken in direct opposition to that of the old New Liberal party which met here a couple of weeks ago and at which convention delegates and alternates were elected in defiance of Mr. Foster's wishes, but in accordance with the request of the leader of the Liberal party. Mr. Foster's action is a direct challenge to those who have through thick and thin opposed the Conservative party as well as Union Government, and is an intimation that the convention held recently will not be recognized by the National Committee. Possibly Mr. Foster has succeeded in soothing the feelings of those whom he ignored in 1917 when he so completely failed either to endorse the efforts of the Opposition or to declare himself in accord with those former Liberals who accepted the principles of Union. It is doubtful, however, that such is the case, for many who stood by their party as did those responsible for the convention already held will not be inclined to take a back seat now, as is the evident determination of Mr. Foster to compel them to do, in order that the way may be clear for the personal glorification of the Provincial Premier. If Mr. Foster's convention goes through in accordance with his present intention, an interesting situation will be created by the election of two groups of delegates, each group claiming the right of official recognition.

#### THE SENATE.

Personal abuse of members of the Senate and unfair criticism of the actions and unfair criticism of the actions of that chamber will not produce the return in the Upper House now so generally desired. In the Senate of Canada there are quite a number of men who are held in respect and who it may be believed are worthy of the confidence of the people. The fact that they have in many cases been appointed to office because of political service does not justify the belief that their actions in matters of legislation are prompted by political motives, and that in holding their positions for life they feel free from responsibility. Members of the Commons take office for political reasons, and partisanship in the Lower House is the accepted attitude, whereas in the Senate impartial consideration of every question submitted is the policy, in theory, at least. At the moment, criticism of the Upper House is due to the action of that body in rejecting what is known as the prohibition amendment, that is in refusing to pass the bill providing for the continuation of national prohibition until a year after the conclusion of the war. While many will contend that the wish of the country is for continued prohibition, it must be remembered that several provinces have not had opportunity of

expressing themselves on this important question and that other provinces are extremely uncertain as to whether or not they favor this legislation. Without adopting a definite attitude either for or against prohibition as a national measure a majority of the members of the Senate hold that in view of the apparent difference of opinion and the uncertainty extending everywhere, it is injudicious to extend the time limit of the order-in-council for the full year specified, but that the country as a whole or the provinces individually should be given opportunity to declare themselves. Although there would be little adverse comment had the Senate adopted the Prohibition Bill as presented, that chamber is not deservingly of the censure now directed against it for its action in a matter in which the members of that body undoubtedly voted in accordance with their own personal opinions. There is no doubt that improvement in parliamentary procedure can be effected by reorganization of the Senate on a different basis, but such improvement cannot be brought about by condemnation of reputable men for their attitude in such a contentious issue.

#### IN NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand papers recently received contain particulars of the vote on the prohibition question, taken in that dominion during the latter part of April. It appears that the civil vote resulted in a majority for prohibition of 11,967, but that this was more than wiped out by the soldiers' vote, which gave a majority of 15,260 for continuation of the license system. Prohibition thus being defeated by 3,293 votes. This is a very small majority in a total of half a million votes. According to the New Zealand system, a plebiscite along this line is taken every three years, so that friends of temperance are not discouraged, but feel that when the next contest is held there will be a sufficient change in sentiment to do away with the present free sale of liquor. It is pointed out that New Zealand soldiers who for several years have been familiar with French cafes and English bars have developed a different view of the liquor question than they formerly entertained, being latterly accustomed to the consumption of light wines in France and to the service of beer in England as an ordinary feature of private hospitality. It is contended, too, that the large vote polled by prohibitionists was to some extent due to the opposition of women to the liquor business.

#### MR. VENIOT'S DELIRIUM.

"The fever for road improvement has gripped practically the whole of the United States and every part of the Union to the south of us is almost delirious upon the subject." The words are the words of Don Roberts, but the voice is the voice of Peter. And indeed it is fitting that when fever and delirium are commented on we should look in the direction of the Minister of Public Health and the promoter of provincial highways. A gentleman by the name of Webster, who in the early days had something to do with compiling a dictionary, states that to be "delirious" is to be light-headed, to have ideas that are wild, irregular and unconnected. Accepting this definition as reasonably correct, it is not clear why Mr. Veniot is his search for delirium, for wild and unconnected ideas and for light-headedness, should stray so far from home. Road work," he says, "has taken such a hold upon the people and is demanded to such an extent that it is necessary to provide the necessary funds." These are his own words, the indication being to convey the idea that his present policy is doubly necessary, and there is no doubt that Mr. Veniot is the best judge, for he knows the demands made upon him by the hungry crowd who anticipate during his term of office the easiest money of a generation.

#### WHAT THEY SAY

Russia Falls. Detroit Times—If Russia falls down on the payment of many more credits granted by American bankers it may become our patriotic duty to establish law and order over there. Spring Epidemics. Tampa Tribune—The soldiers from overseas are bringing epidemics to this country, says a noted physician. We notice also, that these boys are bringing a goodly quantity of German man helmets and other souvenirs, so perhaps we can overlook the alleged epidemics. German Names. Louisville Courier-Journal—With the signing of the peace treaty Chicago has returned to the use of the German names of German dishes. It is fully permissible now for her to call "Big Ben" Herr Mayor instead of Mr. Mayor. Big Task. Boston Transcript—President Wilson says the task of making the world secure for mankind has only begun. Heigh-ho! And we thought that when we had finished paying for that last

1850 Victory Bond the millennium was to begin! Philadelphia Enquirer—Lemmo has sent large sums of money to this country to push Red propaganda. It ought not to be difficult to learn who was on the receiving end of that debauching influence. Having learned, what is the government going to do about it?

Nobody Knows! Hamilton Times—Are we to understand now that the peace terms with Germany are signed, that the Dominion government's prohibition measures are at an end, and that we can again import liquor from Montreal?

Mr. Carvell's Plain Language. Victoria Times—In a communication to Premier Oliver yesterday, Hon. F. B. Carvell, Dominion Minister of Public Works, observes that in view of the report of the Superintendent of Dredging further dredging in the Inner Harbor "may be good business but I do not think so." The minister makes special reference in his letter to one of the shipbuilding concerns on the former reserve, and says if the dredging is done "it would be purely for the purpose of assisting a shipbuilding company which located itself somewhere on dry land without consulting this department, and now wants us to dig them out."

#### A BIT OF VERSE

THE FIRST ROSE OF THE SUMMER  
The first rose of the Summer  
Came forth on yesterday;  
Her cheeks were kissed by raindrops  
Soft.

Where vagrant breezes play,  
Her heart was filled with sweetness  
Rare.

I marvel at her grace—  
Upon her lips reflected fair,  
A smile from Nature's face.

Her presence, sweet with perfume,  
That fills my soul with thrills;  
She speaks to me in quiet tones—  
"Her breath new quiet instills."  
Ah! let me count my jewels on—  
Tinged with the sunset glow,  
Ah! let me rest where she would  
Choose—  
My first sweet Summer rose.  
—Charlotte Carson-Talbot  
Bloomfield.

#### A BIT OF FUN

Danger.  
"Who are the plain people anyhow?"  
"Well, I would not use the term to the lady voters."—Pittsburgh Sun.

Advice.  
When lovers quarrel  
As they will,  
Old folks can help  
By keeping still.

Tough Luck.  
Clerk—We can't pay you the \$25 on this money order until you are identified.  
Man—That's tough! There's only one man in town who can identify me and I owe him \$20.—Buffalo Commercial.

The Main Thing.  
"My poor man," said the sympathetic prison visitor. "Do let me send you some cake to help  
"Thank you, mum. That would suit me fine."  
"What kind would you prefer?"  
"Any would do," said the prisoner, lowering his voice to a whisper, "just so it got a file in it."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Slightly Mistaken.  
Lightning knocked over three men who were sitting on boxes in front of Sawyer's store yesterday, relates the Milltown Banner. One of them was knocked senseless, and the other exclaimed, "Leggo! I'm comin' right home."

Don't Give Way to Cursing.  
"Said old man McGinnis,  
"If a gronch you are nursing  
Just do it alone."

Leading Up to It.  
He called his typist to his office.  
"Miss Keytap, you dress neatly and you have a well-modulated voice. I might add that your deportment is also above reproach."  
"Thank you very much, sir. But I don't think you should pay me such compliments," answered the blushing girl.

"That's all right," said he, "I was just leading up to the point of telling you that you don't seem to know a comma from a colon, and your spelling is simply rotten."

Different Then.  
"P. T. Barnum said the public liked to be humbugged."  
"Quite true," admitted the man who was doing some arithmetic. "But it cost so much less to be humbugged when Barnum was alive."

Inconvenient.  
The honeymoon had waned, and the young bride felt the difference.  
"You used to love to hold my hand, George," she said pathetically one evening.  
"I love to now," George answered calmly, without looking up from his newspaper, "but it would keep you from your housework, dear!" — Answers, London.

No Tightwad.  
"Ain't that guy that married Rose-mund sort of a tightwad?" asked Hebe of the rapid fire restaurant.  
"Goah, no," returned Gladina, of the same establishment. "Why, he borrowed every cent she's saved up and spent it all in three days!"

### Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and Puds Simkins was wawking home from skool today and we went past Mass'ns house and one o'lar window was open and me saying, I tell you wat sets do, Puds, lets play ventriloquist and fool Mary Watkins wen she comes home—you climb down the o'lar and anser wen I call down and she will think I'm a ventriloquist.  
How about you going down and us doing the ventriloquist? sed Puds, and I sed, Who thawt of it, you or me?  
O, all rite sed Puds. And he climbed down the o'lar and I sat on Mary Watkins front steps and started to wait for her and after a while I tude called up from down the o'lar, Hay, and who coming yet?—this aint any fun down here.  
Shh, keep quiet, she mite be hear eny minit I sed. And I keep on waiting, and Mary Watkins kapp on not coming, and Puds called up 3 times saying, No was coming rite up, and after a while Mary Watkins really came, saying, Hello, Benny, are you waiting for me?  
O I dont know, I was jest setting down, did you ever know I was a ventriloquist? I sed.  
Do you mean like the men on the stage? sed Mary Watkins, and I sed, Yes, do you want to see me do a ventriloquist trick? Well she sed she did, and I went and stooped down at the o'lar window, saying, Hello down there, how you feeling?  
Miss, how you? sed Puds Simkins making his voice funny like a ventriloquist, and I called down, Wats you doing? and Puds called up, Nothing, wats you? and I called down, Whose up hear with me? and he called up, Mary Watkins.  
Miss, how that? I sed to Mary Watkins, and she sed, Was that you, Benny, honest, really? and I sed Sure didnt you ever know I was a ventriloquist? and she sed, I dont believe it, do you cross your hart it was you?  
Surs, I sed, And I crossed my hart with one hand and crossed my fingers with the other hand, and my o'ck so I wouldnt be telling a lie. And then me and Mary Watkins set down on her steps and after a while I saw Puds sed coming up out of the o'lar window and I quick waded my hand for him to go back agen. Well he did, and Mary Watkins sed, Goah, heed, did you think I was going to stay there all day? and I sed, Aw go on, I bet you waset down there a hour.  
And I wese home mad and old he.

#### NEWCASTLE

Newcastle, July 4.—Mrs. King Hazen and children are spending a few weeks at the Creighton cottage at Bayswater.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Sinclair and family have taken up their summer residence at Burtat Church.

Miss Dorothy Nicholson is spending the vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Nicholson.

Mr. Charles McLean, of Napadogan, spent Tuesday at his home here.

Mr. Harold Behie and bride, of Vancouver, are visiting the former's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. James McMurray have returned from their wedding trip.

Miss Jennie Crocker, of Providence, R. I., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Crocker.

Mrs. Thomas Smith and children of Accomac, Mass., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Wm. Rowan. She was accompanied by her nephew, Mr. Wm. Cashman of Milton, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rowan, of Toronto, came this week to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry McLean.

Mr. Harold Behie and bride, of Vancouver, are visiting the former's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Jones.

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MANY CASES BY POLICE MA

Oliver Farwell, aged 65 of Augusta, Me., was charged with taking the seat of his parents, E. McCutcheon, aged four of Mr. and Mrs. Robert bright, told the story of with the alleged kidn