

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1914.

### AN HONEST GOVERNMENT.

A little bit of evidence that the Borden Government is an honest one and composed of clean men, was produced in the House of Commons yesterday. It had been found that one of the Government vessels the "Alert," had been used to some extent for political purposes and the Government at once suspended the officer responsible and put the vessel out of commission pending an enquiry. From the reports to hand it appears that whatever advantage could have accrued from such a use of a Government steamer was gained by the Conservative party, but it emphatically does not appear that this fact was allowed to weigh for a minute with the Premier or the members of his cabinet.

Contrast this case with the conditions under the surfer regime. What would have happened if the Alert had been used by the Liberal party under the Liberal government? There is ample precedent to show that the event would have been winked at and passed over. The report of the Indian Reserve matter in the West, which is already before the House, and of the National Transcontinental Railway scandals which will be presented to Parliament next week will amply show the sort of government from which the people of Canada were fortunate enough to escape on September 21st, 1911.

### THE PARCEL POST

Hon. L. P. Pelletier, Postmaster General of Canada will confer a real and lasting benefit upon the people of Canada when he puts the parcel post system into effect, and despatches from Ottawa convey the information that development will come in a few days. The advantages should prove considerable and one of the first to strike the imagination is that it should have some effect upon the cost of living. Some of the Western newspapers have already figured it out that this will be the case and upon this line the Victoria Colonist presents a very sensible view of the case when it says:

"There is one feature of the new parcel post system that should make a general appeal. Through its operation it may be possible to appreciably reduce the cost of living. For instance, let us take the case of butter. The consumer in a city can buy direct from the producer, his purchase being sent to him through the mail. Supposing the butter was retailing for fifty cents a pound, whereas the producer was only getting thirty cents, by buying direct from the latter the consumer, under the new parcel post arrangement, would be able to have six pounds sent to him at a cost for postage of twelve cents. This would mean that the butter would cost him thirty-two cents per pound as opposed to fifty cents if he bought it direct from the retailer. The figures we have quoted are only imaginary ones, but from them it can be seen that the consumer stands to benefit to a considerable extent, for it is very certain that a retailer's profit on such a commodity as butter is considerably more than two cents per pound. We might apply the same argument to eggs, vegetables, fruit, and many other necessities and luxuries of life which can be shipped in small bulk. The parcel post system, as far as such commodities are concerned, should perform a useful object lesson in the benefits to be derived from the elimination of the middleman. If properly utilized, there is no reason why it should not mean an appreciable reduction in the cost of living as far as it affects such foodstuffs as can be carried through the mails under the new arrangement which, it has been announced, will go into effect during February. To bring the consumer more directly in touch with the producer is a sound principle of political economy which cannot fail to have beneficial results for the community at large."

### A BRITISH ELECTION.

The Telegraph sees in the election in Northwest Durham, England, on Friday last, an indication that the Unionist position on the Home Rule question in England is not winning favor. The deduction is hardly warranted by the fact. If the Telegraph will go carefully into the situation in the constituency which was captured by a Liberal candidate we are quite sure it will find that the battle was really fought between a Liberal and a Laborite, and the Liberal won easily. The only chance the Unionist had was in the three cornered fight. That particular portion of England is not a labor stronghold, and we are informed that for a long time its workmen even kept away from joining forces with any outside unions and fought their own battles.

The British Liberals have little cause to plume themselves upon the result. They are absolutely dependent for power upon a coalition with the Labor forces just as the Laborites are dependent for their political influence upon a coalition with the Liberals. Both Liberals and Labor men know this, but the Labor men have been growing restive, and with some degree of success have been forcing the Liberals to abandon seats to them and to give Liberal support to Labor candidates.

There can be no doubt that Northwest Durham will prove valuable to the British Liberals for "trading" purposes in the next election, and it is more than likely that much trading will be done. With the Unionist party facing the people pledged to an advanced programme of social legislation there can be no doubt that the Labor men will be more difficult to keep in line. Northwest Durham is not so much an indication of a decrease in popularity of the Unionist attitude toward Home Rule as it is a warning to the British Liberals that they must keep the Labor men well satisfied if they are to retain their support. A British general election is more than likely to show many startling changes in the present political situation in the mother land.

### CANADIAN COMPANIES.

One of the great Canadian activities of the fiscal year ending last March was the organization of joint stock companies, says the Vancouver News-Advertiser. Charters were granted to 835 new companies and supplementary charters to 104, most of which increased their capital. The total number, 939, may be compared with 658 in the previous year, 544 in 1910-11, and 493 in 1909-10. Each of these figures was a record at the time. The capitalization of the new companies which received charters last year was \$625,212,299, which was \$178,000,000 more than the previous year, and more than double the amount of three years before. The Secretary of State does not tell us how much of this stock was paid up, or how much of the paid up capital is moisture. The companies having capital of \$10,000,000 and over include the Canadian Autobus, \$10,000,000; the Imperial Tobacco, \$30,000,000; Texas Northern Land and Irrigation, \$10,000,000; Canadian General Electric, \$12,000,000; St. Lawrence Sugar Refineries, \$10,000,000; Brazilian Traction, \$120,000,000; Dominion Bridge, \$10,000,000; Cassidy's \$10,000,000; Atlantic Sugar Refinery, (St. John), \$10,000,000.

Interested Grits who wish to make political capital out of the decision of the Empress steamers to terminate their voyages at Halifax for this winter, are reporting that if the Empresses had come to St. John and the Royal liners had remained in Halifax this winter would have done more business. As it is they say the business has "gone to Halifax." It is a nice little story, but unfortunately for those who tell it it is not true. Over in Halifax the Grits are at the same game. The Chronicle says: "In spite of all the wild boasting of the Tory organs about Mr. Borden's great achievements for Halifax," the present winter is one of the worst since the old Tory days before 1896. The "switching" of the Royal line from Halifax to St. John was a blow at the prestige of Halifax, but, worse still, it has deprived the laboring men of Halifax of employment which they sorely need."

The Grit newspapers are telling us the Gouin government are not worried much over the Daily Mail's charges in Quebec. Possibly not, but was it sheer joy that caused the deputy attorney-general of Quebec on Wednesday to attempt to punch the Mail editor on the nose? As an old verse has it, "It's all very well to dissemble your love, but why did you kick me down stairs?"

The suburbanites who meet Mr. Gutelius of the I. C. R. on Saturday morning will probably have their case well presented. It is equally certain that the General Manager of the Government Railway will give to their claims every consideration. Meanwhile it is not difficult to accumulate evidence to show that the trains should be restored.

The editor of the Times has intimated that the editor of The Standard is a "polecat." Which is the completely satisfying defence that that gentleman makes to The Standard's charge that he is a common liar. Even Times readers will probably require additional proof that The Standard's charge was wrong.

An Ontario doctor has been charged with "raising" a patient's cheque and pocketing the proceeds. Possibly the story is true, but there will be many to question it. Why should a physician resort to such a clumsy method of taking his patient's money, when there are other ways open to him that are just as sure and possibly as easy?

### Diary of Events

#### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Letters of marque and reprisal were granted by England against American ships on this date in 1771, and a flourishing privateering industry sprang up at Halifax and other ports of the Maritime Provinces. Some time before that privateering had been entered upon with great vigor and zeal by the Americans, particularly New Englanders, and the commerce of British America suffered much in consequence. Privateering was kept up during the remainder of the war. Many of the leaders in the revolutionary struggle were interested in the business, including Robert Morris and George Washington. The privateering industry was renewed with even greater zest during the war of a century ago, when Halifax privateers brought hundreds of prizes into that port.

On this date in 1859 the Hudson's Bay Company refused to accept a renewal of the lease of the Indian territories for a period of two years, but the Indians were unwilling to renew the license for twenty-one years. The British government gave to the North West Company, in 1821, a license of exclusive trade over the Indian territories, the boundaries of which were not clearly defined, but were "all such parts of North America to the northward and to the westward of the United States, as form no part of His Majesty's Provinces in North America." In 1838 the exclusive right of trading with the Indians was renewed to the Hudson's Bay Company for a period of twenty-one years, the company having acquired the rights of the parties to whom the first grant had been made. The consideration was an annual rental of five shillings, the company binding themselves to insure the due execution of all civil and criminal process within the territory. This was the period of the company's greatest prosperity. As the expiration of the license for the Canadian government determined on the annexation of the country, and this was finally effected.

#### THE HUMAN PROCESSION

##### CLAIMS A THRONE.

Avowed royalists in France could now almost be counted on the fingers and toes of a survivor of a New York, Near Heaven & Hades railway accident. There are many reasons for this, but the principal one is Prince Louis Philippe Robert, Duc d'Orléans, who would be King of France if that country should restore the Orleansist regime. Immensely rich, the Prince has been a spendthrift and a lady-killer, and the number of his loves are beyond counting. There was a time when French royalists, then fairly numerous, expected his escapades on the ground of youthful wild cat, but that time is past. The Duke will be forty-five years old today, and he is still an incurable royalist. His advancement to the throne was on Feb. 6, 1869, and was educated at Sandhurst, afterward serving two years in India with a crack British regiment. He studied at the Swiss army school, and on Feb. 6, 1890, his twenty-first birthday, he returned to France, and under an assumed name, enlisted in the French army and served in the army. He believed that Frenchmen would be aroused to enthusiasm by his "patriotism," but when discovery came and he was charged with violating the law which forbids heads of former ruling dynasties from entering France, the public only laughed, and gave him the nickname of "Tincan." After his arrest in which common soldiers kept their rifles when in the field.

The Duke was soon released from France, and fled the country with howls of derision ringing in his ears. Ever since he has been a joke in the land of which he claims to be the ruler. Later he has been given a new and more sinister nickname—"The Wifebeater."

The Pretender married in 1896 the Archduchess Maria Dorothea, Amelia of Austria. The cruelty and fickleness of the Duke soon led to a separation, and the outraged wife brought suit for a legal separation, alimony, and the restoration of large sums she had advanced to her husband. Last year, at about the time the suit was filed, the Duke sailed for a tour of South America, not alone. With him was a woman who had spent some time at the Duke's retreat on Lake Como, and who described herself as a "countess."

Last month the suit brought by the Duchess was withdrawn, as the French royalists feared the effects of the scandal, and the questions involving property rights and alimony were submitted to arbitrators. Whether the charge of "wifebeater" is well founded cannot be known, now that the domestic troubles of the pair have been hushed up, but it has found general belief in France.

The Duke has offered his military services to Italy, Spain and Russia, but has always been refused. During the Boer war he showed his ingratitude by bitterly attacking Queen Victoria, although his family had been given a refuge in England after having been forced to flee from France in 1848. Since then the Duke has never been welcome in England, and on one occasion, it is said, a party of young Englishmen waylaid him and administered a thorough spanking on that part of the royal person where it would prove most effective.

The Duke's only brother, Prince Ferdinand, Duke of Montpensier, is the heir to the pretendership, as the Duke is childless. He is a young man of charming manners, strict morals, and as an explorer in China, has ably served the French government. He was among those prominently mentioned for the throne of Albania.

#### FOWLS OF THE AIR

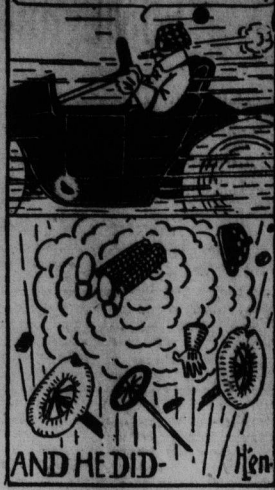
"A Sunday school teacher, after reading the story, 'The Fowls of the Air,' turned to her class and asked: 'What are the fowls of the air?' After a pause, one little girl solved the problem by replying: 'Please, Miss, it's the bad man!'"

General Villa, Mexican revolutionary leader, is reported to be unable to write. Well with the surplus rifles, pistols, guns and cannons of the United States to draw upon he should at least be able to make his mark.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN

### AND HE DID

BY GOSH-MOTORING IS TAME  
I THINK I'LL TAKE UP FLYING



### Lick Him Yourself

The following note was received by Bobby's mother from his teacher, "Dear Madam—I regret very much to have to tell you that your son, Robert, idles away his time, is disobedient, quarrelsome, and disturbs the pupils who are trying to study their lessons. He needs a good whipping and I strongly recommend that you give him one. Yours truly, Miss Blank." To this Bobby's mother responded as follows: "Dear Miss Blank—Lick him yourself. I ain't mad at him. Yours truly, Mrs. Dash."

### Needed Foot Warmer

A girl was complaining to her chum the other day of the way her steady was treating her. "Why don't you give him the mitten?" the friend asked. "It isn't a mitten he needs, it's a pair of socks, he's got cold feet," was the answer.

### Why He Stopped

A traveller in Indiana noticed that a farmer was having trouble with his horse. It would start, go slowly for a short distance, and then stop again. Thereupon the farmer would have great difficulty in getting it started. Finally the traveller approached and asked, soliloquously: "Is your horse sick?" "Not as I know of." "Is he balky?" "No. But he is so danged 'traid I'll say whoa and don't hear me that he stops every once in a while to listen."

### The Cause

Spank! Spank! Spank! Tommy was undergoing maternal chastisement for eating the jam. "Tommy," she said, when she had paused for breath, "do you know this hurts me more than it does you?" And when Tommy was alone with his brother he produced a square board he had concealed, and said, "I thought that bit of wood wouldn't do her hand any good."

### How It Died

Henry Waterson, the well-known American journalist, told this story at a dinner party. "One day when I was the city editor of a small newspaper, a fine turkey was left at the office. We all hankered after the bird, but the editor finally claimed it, took it home and had it cooked for dinner. The next day a letter was handed in to him, which he opened and read: 'Mr. Editor—I sent you a turkey yesterday which had been the cause of much dispute among us. To settle a bet, will you please state in tomorrow's issue what the turkey died of?'"

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J. Norton Griffith that Courtney Gives Op

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