

The St. John Standard

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H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor.
ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.
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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1914.

ADVERSE ADVERTISING.

Indications that the year 1914 will witness great improvement in business and financial conditions over the year which closed a few weeks ago continue to multiply. Possibly in no portion of Canada are evidences of the approaching change more pronounced than in the country's capital and metropolis. To Ottawa, the capital, come reports of the resumption of activity on large projects throughout the west which were temporarily abandoned because of the financial stringency of the last few months. In Montreal, the metropolis, and the centre of the great railways and financial institutions, there is a most optimistic feeling, and as this is reflected in the smaller cities and towns it may be safely said that the days of depression are about over. The streams of the British capital that have poured into Canada for legitimate undertakings, and which were temporarily halted, or at least reduced in volume, show signs of again turning this way. In the light of this naturally favorable condition it is to be regretted that Canada has received some adverse advertising in the Empire centres through recent happenings, which, to some extent, have stirred the people on this side of the water.

The recent Quebec scandal, in which members of the Liberal legislature, and men very close to the leaders in Canadian Liberalism, were accused of craft and bribery, has found an echo in some of the English newspapers. A feeling of surprise that legislators entrusted with the duty of administering the affairs of one of Canada's greatest provinces should so far forget their duty, and so violate the ethics of public honesty underlies the majority of the comments. "Canada is rapidly approaching the standard of public honesty set up during the Tweed regime in the United States," is one of the most caustic of these comments, while in other cases there is shown a tendency to hope that the case against the accused Quebec legislators may show extenuating circumstances. The whole trend of the British editorial opinion is in the direction of grievous surprise that, in Canada, such things should be possible.

The report of the National Transcontinental Railway Investigating Commission, following, as it did, fast upon the heels of the Quebec scandal, has increased the surprise and lessened the Canadian reputation for integrity and square dealing. The condition found most reprehensible in connection with the whole matter is that the government under which the railway was constructed should permit such a vast undertaking to be proceeded with under regulations so lax that any contractor who desired to do so could reap profit without giving to the people value for the money he took from them. After all, the attitude of British newspapers commenting upon the scandal is a very reasonable one. It is the people of Canada who pay the bills, and who must be the ultimate sufferers as the result of the N. T. R. crime. It is not a question of politics, but merely of simple old fashioned honesty. Under the Borden government it could not have happened; under the Laurier administration it did happen.

Liberal newspapers in Canada have exerted every effort to cover up. They tell their readers the report contained no evidence of wrong-doing, the most to be said was that the railway was constructed on a standard higher than necessary and, in consequence, the cost of the undertaking was greater than the project warranted. The people of this province can readily imagine the outburst of indignation in the Telegraph and Times offices over the slightest imputation that there was dishonesty at any point in connection with the N. T. R. Construction of too high a standard, that is all. It may, however, be interesting to hear our Liberal friends explain the method and condition under which one Ottawa firm was enabled to get away with \$740,000 without so much as turning a spade. This can hardly be explained on the ground of a too high standard of construction. Rather was it due to a too low standard of honesty.

PEACE PRIZES

Some time ago doubts were expressed about the wisdom of giving prizes for promoting peace principles. Now there seems to be further doubt concerning the manner in which these prizes are administered. One of the witnesses of Nobel's will declares that his bequest was intended to be bestowed as a promise rather than an honorary prize and accuses the trustees of having wilfully broken the terms of the trust. To put it in his own words, the prize was not intended as a superfluous distinction for men whose working days were over but as an encouragement to persons

whose life work was still in the main before them." And as a safeguard to the principle the founder of the prize decreed that it should go to the persons who had contributed most materially to the benefit of mankind during the preceding year. It is only fair to point out that for the year 1912, the peace prize was not awarded because the committee could not discover that any one had worked adequately for the cause of peace. This, however, was a sin of omission rather than commission and it is on the latter count that the committee is found guilty. In some cases the men who have received the prize have had more means than Nobel had himself and the idea of providing these men with a sufficient income for a quiet and simple mode of life seems somewhat grotesque. Such men as the Polish author Sienkiewicz, who resided in a knightly castle on the Indian patrician Tagore. Another recipient of the prize stood as witness to the fact that the committee while they may have sought out those who were most worthy have not found those who were most needy.

This has provoked the suggestion that the recipients retain the honor for themselves and pass on the money for cultural purposes. A suggestion which would please nobody, and least of all, the man who gave the money and intended thereby to provide personal joy for struggling yet highly gifted people. It simply emphasizes the fact, all too evident in life, that "unto him that hath, shall be given." The more we rain the more we stand to gain in the ordinary transactions between man and man.

Let us hope that the clergy who are to preach peace for Andrew Carnegie to the measure of two millions of dollars, shall be governed by these conditions. The cause is a good one and the methods used should be above suspicion. A creative spirit striving for lofty ends is the driving force of these peace reformers are looking for today and no proscribed ideas of primum or mere literary prestige should prevent us from carrying out their wishes.

A SHORT SESSION.

A short session with prorogation likely by the middle of April. This is the indication which finds most support on Parliament Hill. There is no fight in the Opposition and no likelihood of flight although the debates on the Transcontinental Railway question may cause a temporary breeze. The gossip in the corridors, however, is all in the line of getting through the business as quickly as possible and then for the members to get home and rest up in preparation for the nerve-racking, something doing every minute proceedings which are expected for next session, the last before the election.

Another factor which it is expected will contribute somewhat to the cutting of the present session as short as possible is the decision of the Prime Minister to make a continental tour during the summer. He will go to the West and it is said even as far as the Yukon, where no Canadian premier ever penetrated before and to do this as it should be done will require some time. It will be Mr. Borden's first trip to the West since the famous one of 1911 when he made the declaration that even to be premier of Canada he would not endorse the adjunct proposition of reciprocity.

The illness of Dr. Pugsley has weakened the Opposition to a very considerable extent. While it is agreed that the personal and political records of the ex-Minister of Public Works are such as to prevent him from entering the confidence of his party to an extent where he might be chosen as the successor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, yet it is also conceded that he is the most effective little fighter in the Opposition ranks. Graham acts like a dyspeptic, Lemieux is perturbed over the situation in Quebec, Frank Oliver is rapidly becoming foolish with age and Sir Wilfrid, although regular in his attendance on the sessions of the House, looks as if the whole proceedings bored him to the limit. Consequently there is need for a fighter. And Mr. Pugsley in the present juncture would be very welcome.

The sympathy of friends in all parts of the province is extended to Mr. James Gilchrist, and family, in the death of the promising boy whose burial took place yesterday. At all times the sudden loss of a beloved one is a keen sorrow, but in the case of Mr. Gilchrist's son the tragic circumstances surrounding the accident were such as to render the grief of the bereaved ones more poignant. At an age when his natural abilities were in the most active process of development and his future particularly bright, the death of the young lad must seem to his friends a blow almost too great to be understood.

Diary of Events

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

ENGLAND HONORS WASHINGTON. Washington's birthday, which falls this year on Sunday, will be celebrated tonight with banquets and meetings in many American cities and in London, Paris, Berlin and other European capitals. This year commemorates the signing of the peace treaty ending the last war between Great Britain and the United States, and, as a manifestation of the friendly feeling which has long marked the relations between the two countries, England will preserve as a permanent memorial Sulgrave Manor, in Northamptonshire, the home of the ancestors of "The Father of our Country," Earl Grey, the former Governor General of Canada, is at the head of the committee which arranged the purchase of the historic estate. The manor will be used as a museum and will contain a valuable collection of Sulgrave MSS., paintings, documents and records of the principal events in Anglo-American history since the signing of the treaty of 1763. He was the son of a Lancashire man who went to London and made a fortune in the wool business. Laurence Washington also gained property and position and was knighted by Henry VIII, who gave him the land, confiscated from a monastery, on which he built Sulgrave Manor. The house was usually called Washington Manor and remained in the possession of the Washington family until 1620. There is a tradition that Laurence Washington was a personal friend of Shakespeare, but this is not well authenticated.

Laurence's son, Robert, was a spender rather than a maker, and soon dissipated the family fortune and estate. Sulgrave Manor passed from the possession of the Washingtons. Robert's grandson, also named Laurence, became a clergyman, and his son, John, emigrated to Virginia. There he had a son, Laurence, whose son, Augustine, was the father of the immortal George. Sulgrave Manor has undergone many changes since it came to the home of the progenitors of the father of a new nation, but the most interesting portions of the ancient edifice have been preserved. There are five miles of Washington arms may still be dimly discerned. The arms consist of a white shield crossed horizontally by two red bars, with three five-pointed stars above the top. It has been alleged that the United States flag was based on the Washington arms, but this is denied by many investigators.

BADEN-POWELL

Gen. Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts' movement, was born fifty-seven years ago tomorrow, February 22, 1857, the son of a clergyman. His army service began thirty-eight years ago, and the story of his military career is replete with incidents of bravery and daring, although his greatest fame is based on his brilliant defence of Mafeking, which made him one of the greatest heroes of the Boer war. Even since his retirement from the army Sir Robert has devoted his time to the organization and extension of the Boy Scouts' movement.

BRANLIER MATTHEWS

Brander Matthews, author, educator, and first chairman of the Spelling Board, was born in New Orleans sixty-two years ago today. As professor of dramatic literature at Columbia University, Prof. Matthews has won fame throughout the educational and theatrical world, but it is as the defender of simplified spelling that he is best known to the public at large. "When in doubt, use the shorter," is Prof. Matthews' rule for spelling, which he applies to such words as rough, catalogue, programme, honour, controller and many others.

An Old Settler Finds Quick Relief

Chas. Marshall Cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Mrs. Marshall Tells How Her Husband Suffered, and of His Speedy Recovery When He Used the real Canadian Kidney Remedy.

Parkinson, Algoma, Ont., Feb. 20.—(Special).—Living far from towns and with doctors not within easy reach, many of the settlers have found Dodd's Kidney Pills an inestimable blessing. One of those is Mr. Charles Marshall, Sr., whose recovery from a severe case of kidney disease has recently been the cause of much satisfaction to his family and friends. "My husband was suffering very much with his back and legs," Mrs. Marshall says, speaking of her husband's cure. "He went to see the doctor, and he told him he had urinary trouble, but he did not seem to get any better. Then I sent for some Dodd's Kidney Pills. Since taking them he has no more pain in his back and legs, and his other troubles are all gone. "I am indeed thankful for what Dodd's Kidney Pills did for my husband, and I hope other sufferers from kidney disease will benefit by his experience, and use Dodd's Kidney Pills." "Many troubles are caused by diseased kidneys. So are backache, rheumatism, lumbago and heart disease. The natural remedy is to cure the kidneys by using Dodd's Kidney Pills.

IN LIGHTER VEIN AND HE DID



A Step in Economy
"Bulger has stopped drinking."
"His friends will save money."

The Impossible Thing

A well-dressed lady having given the signal that she desired to alight, the car was brought to a stop, but just as the rear step was directly over a small mud puddle. The lady looked an instant, and then asked: "How do you think I can get off here?" And the conductor replied: "I cannot tell you, madam but I do know that we can't wait until that puddle dries up."

Perfectly True

Military Examiner—"What must a man be to be buried with military honors?"
Recruit—"Dead."

Good Advice

An editor, in reply to a young writer who wished to know which magazine would give him the highest position quickest, advised a "powder magazine, especially if you contribute a fiery article."

Not So Far

"So you want to marry my daughter," said Mr. Cumrox.
"Yes," replied the young man. "I hope to hear you say take her and be happy!"

It Takes The King

"Now children," said the school teacher, "can any of you tell me of a greater power than a king?"
"Yes, ma'am," cried a little boy, eagerly.
"Very well, you may tell the class," replied the teacher.
"An ace," was the unexpected reply.

KILONIS THROWS LUCECKE.

Attleboro, Feb. 20.—John Kilonis threw Harry Lucecke in two straight bouts, taking the first fall in 1h. 40c. Paul Bowser and Sam Anderson drew.

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