

# The Standard

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SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 1911.

## SIR WILFRID'S WHITE PLUME.

The Telegraph quotes, with much unctio, a rumor circulated by the Ottawa correspondent of the New York Herald to the effect that the Liberals may take the mysterious, awe inspiring legend "Follow my white plume," as their battle cry in the impending general election. It hastens to supplement this interesting piece of news by a somewhat disappointing and prosaic explanation as to its origin. "Sir Wilfrid's hair," we are told, "while thin on top, is luxuriant and bushy, behind his ears, and gives a unique distinction to his appearance." What at first sight appears to be a rather personal reference to the peculiar cut of the Premier's hair, the announcement that Sir Wilfrid himself is mainly responsible for the story. Addressing his French-Canadian compatriots on the Champ de Mars at Montreal last Tuesday, Sir Wilfrid exclaimed: "Henry of Navarre at the battle of Ivry said: 'Follow my white plume and you will find it always in the forefront of honor.' Like Henry IV, I say to you young men, 'Follow my white plume—the white hair of sixty-nine years—and you will, I believe I can say without boasting, find it always in the forefront of honor.'" Apart from the ludicrous nature of the image and the insensate vanity it displays, the exhortation to follow Sir Wilfrid Laurier's white plumes as a certain guide in the path of honor is grotesque in the extreme in its application to facts.

Sir Wilfrid's heroics have caught the eye of the Winnipeg Telegram which pointedly remarks that if his plumes are still unscathed it can only be because he has contrived to keep his nose above the mud in the slough of dishonor through which he has been leading his band of followers. They have not all escaped so well, adds the Telegram, Emmerson, Pugsley, Sir Frederick Borden, and Brodeur are names which do not suggest white plumes as the inspiration of youthful aspirants to honor. Yet they have been following the plumes of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as well as they could upon their inferior mounts. One or two of them have been engulfed. Still he rides proudly on; in his nostrils nothing but the incense of self-flattery, and oblivious to the odor beneath. As for the poor man-at-arms following the knight on foot, pause to pity the Prestons and Cap Sullivans, and thin red line artists struggling to follow the path of honor in the wake of those snowy nodding plumes!

And what a quagmire! Cruises of the Arctic, North Atlantic Trading Companies, printing department scandals, Farmers' banks, Chinese tax embezzlements, Quebec classifications, timber steals, land grabs, public works graft, saw dust wharves, departmental extravagance, militia inefficiency, naval complications, marine and fisheries investigations, transcontinental graft, promises fraudulently made and ruthlessly broken, all the quaking ground of politics either uncertain or insincere and sometimes both, at the service of private rapacity and greed, regardless of public duty! What a morass! The poet Gray says that the path of glory leads but to the grave. If the path of honor Sir Wilfrid prates about, leads to anything like the trail of his past itineraries, the young men of Quebec will be better advised to avoid a path through such pollution.

### WHAT IS IT?

Seeing "something" leave the human body at death is a claim which has been heard of in times past, but a recent despatch from Denver presents a physician of high standing, Dr. Patrick S. O'Donnell, an X-ray specialist, who makes the statement that he has witnessed a visible "flight of life" from a dying person. He used to be associated with Dr. W. J. Klinger of London, who has lately published a book, "The Human Atmosphere or Aura."

Some time ago Dr. O'Donnell invited a number of physicians to a demonstration in the observance of this "aura," or sort of electrical radiation from the body and enveloping it. The medium used was a chemical film of undecorated composition placed between two small plates of glass. Persons were then located at the end of a dark passageway and observed through the glass. At the demonstration, it is said, all the physicians present made positive admission of seeing such an emanation or aura.

Later on Dr. O'Donnell alone sought observance through a similar medium of a dying person—a charity patient in one of the hospitals. When it was said the man had but a few minutes to live Dr. O'Donnell began his observation, and now reports: "I looked at the man through the screen for almost half an hour. The aura was plainly distinguishable. The attending doctor said the patient was sinking rapidly. I did not take my eyes from the subject. Suddenly the physician announced that death had occurred. At the same instant the aura, which as a bright light, had been radiated from the body at all points, began to spread from the body and disappeared. Further observation of the corpse revealed no sign of aura."

Dr. O'Donnell regards the discovery as of value in ascertaining the nature of diseases and as of more importance than the X-ray. He is very far as yet from asserting an identity of the aura with soul or spirit, but that is apparently the inference and the next question to be answered by him will be whether animals have such auras, or souls.

### THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA.

Strenuous efforts are being made by the Government organs to make it appear that the Conservatives are obstructing the course of business at Ottawa, and that the Opposition will be responsible should there be an early election before the redistribution bill can be passed. The Times points out that the census returns will not be available before October, and expresses the opinion that Reciprocity should be in effect before that time. "It should be adopted in Canada," it continues, "as soon as possible after it has been agreed to by the United States senate; which is expected to pass it this week. The Conservatives may make it necessary to go to the country before the bill passes at Ottawa, but the Government will not hesitate to accept the challenge."

What reason can apologists for the Government adduce in support of the contention that the Reciprocity agreement should be rushed through and all the other

business of the country neglected? There is no need for the Government to appeal to the country before redistribution. The Opposition cannot force them to adopt this course. The Conservatives have no direct control over Parliament which can only be dissolved by the Governor General on the advice of the present ministers of the crown. Months ago Mr. Borden urged upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier the fact that as Canada had survived without Reciprocity for forty years the country could very well struggle along without it for a few months longer. He suggested that the census should be hurried, the redistribution bill introduced, which would give the West the representation it is entitled to, and then the question of Reciprocity should be submitted to the people.

The question could be fought out at the polls and the verdict of the electors accepted. Why should the Government object to give the country a chance to pronounce upon the pact if they are satisfied that its adoption is in the best interests of Canada?

### NAVIGATING BY WIRELESS.

A method whereby a vessel may be controlled without any individual being on board and without any communication with the shore was demonstrated recently by Herr Christian Wirth on the Vasee, at Berlin, Germany, which opens up surprising possibilities in navigation. By Herr Wirth's invention he is able to transmit power by means of radio-telegraphy and so control entirely the movements of the vessel.

The model, which was 50 feet in length and fitted with two masts, carried "aerials" and was stationed about a kilometer from the shore. With the utmost regularity and with a wonderful absence of hesitation or delay, the engines of the model started, reversed or stopped by the mere pressure of a button on shore, the helm also being regulated with equal precision. A large party of naval officers and experts in the engineering world witnessed the remarkable sight of a vessel being maneuvered from the shore without the assistance of wires or any other similar means of communication.

The mechanism on board the ship was so adjusted that as soon as what may be termed a certain "command" was given, a colored light showed on the vessel. In explaining the working of this invention, it was pointed out that not only could a ship be controlled in this manner, but that torpedoes and guns could also be controlled and fired by the radio-telegraphic system.

Future experiences alone will show to what extent this invention will be developed. Considering, however, that the present distance over which the vessel can be manipulated is about three miles, it speaks well for the future of this ingenious discovery.

### THE NORTHERN ONTARIO FIRES.

Northern Ontario will have unfortunate reason to remember the hot and dry summer of 1911. Forest fires, possibly started by careless travellers, have swept over a wide region, blotting out villages and isolated houses, and creating a region of blackness that will be a discouragement to settlers for years to come.

A period of great heat with no rainfall made the woods so dry that there would be danger of a conflagration from the careless throwing away of a burning match. Many fires seem to have been started. One, or possibly two or three converging, gained such a hold that to stop it was impossible, even had there been anybody to make the attempt. A high wind completed the evil conditions, and those who could not fly far enough and fast enough or get into the water or to some specially protected spot, perished.

As so often happens in the case of a great fatality, the first reports of the number of lives lost are happily turning out to have been greatly exaggerated. The actual facts are deplorable. Many people have perished. The fugitives seem to have lost all their belongings, which often were small enough. Their case is one of extreme distress, which generous hands will not be slow to relieve.

## Current Comment

(Calgary Albertian.)

At the present the law fines the man who puts his surplus earnings into building improvements and undoubtedly the menace of heavy taxes not only prevents many from building, but seriously limits the plans for many buildings that are erected. The experience of cities which have gone a generous distance in the direction of single tax has been most beneficial. The single tax encourages building and it discourages the holding of land for purely speculative purposes, and to the greedy looking to their neighbors to make the improvements which would increase the value of adjoining properties it is a discouragement.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

Remember that the food you take one day supplies the strength you put forth the next. It is then a mistake to take a heavy meal on the day of heavy work. The time to take it is the day before. Wise stable men know this, and when a horse has a long day's drive before him they give him only what is called a "check feed," a very light meal—to be followed at night with a heavy one. So there are two good reasons for a man's not eating much on the day of stress. It adds nothing to his strength on that day, and the process of digestion calls the blood to work at the stomach when every ounce of it is needed at the brain.

(Cathman World.)

The more the people of the North Shore hear about the Reciprocity agreement, and the more they think about it, the less they like it. It looked, at first sight, as though it might benefit our lumber and fishing industries somewhat, but it is clear that no man who catches fish will get one cent more for his catch, and that no man who works in a mill will get a cent more for his work in consequence of Reciprocity. Our farmers have nothing whatever to get from it, and may see their home customers partially supplied with Reciprocity imports.

(Christian Register.)

Several famous writers and lecturers of Boston were once speaking of their lecture experiences. Each man of the company was certain that he had received the smallest sum. But Dr. Holmes made a climax by saying: "Listen, gentlemen. I had engaged to give a lecture for \$5. After it was over, a grave-looking deacon came to me and said: 'Mr. Holmes, we agreed to give you \$5; but your talk wasn't just what we expected, and I guess that twofifty will be about right.'"

(London Standard.)

Mr. Borden's tour has convinced Canadians that Statesmanship is not a monopoly of Laurier's party. Fifteen years of office have indeed left Canadian Liberalism bankrupt of ideas. In their search for some novelty to recapture the affections of a dissatisfied electorate, the cabinet ministers have proved false to the fundamental principles of Canadian policy.

(Boston Monitor.)

It is said that during the last week baked apples could have been plucked from the trees in many parts of the country, but nothing has been printed about hot rolls that could have been picked up on the ocean anywhere along the Atlantic coast.

## DETHRONED KING RAVED OVER THIS BEAUTY.



GABY DESLYS

Gaby Deslys, the beautiful Parisian actress, who, it is said, was to a great extent responsible for the downfall and banishment of King Manuel of Portugal, has signed a contract to play in a New York theatre at a fabulous salary. It is even hinted that the dethroned King, who is still very attentive to her, will follow the captivating Gaby to New York.

## MAGISTRATE'S DECISION ON EARLY CLOSING CASES

Full Text of Police Magistrate Ritchie's Judgment in Dismissing Cases Brought Under City By-Law.

In the police court yesterday the early closing cases, the judgment in which had been deferred two weeks ago, were brought up and dismissed by the magistrate without costs. Magistrate Ritchie held that these cases were within the exceptions of the by-law. He also held that the by-law was ineffective and gave reasons for such a finding. For instance, he stated that under the law he had not the power to imprison a defendant for default of payment of a fine. The by-law differentiates from the provisions of the legislature. Recorder Baxter and the lawyers for the defendants were present. The police magistrate's judgment was as follows:

"The Early Closing Act consists of nine sections, the second section of which act provides that the words 'shop' and 'closed' in any by-law passed under the second section shall have the meaning assigned thereby in such section to pass any by-law. In looking over the act carefully, I am of opinion that there is a mis-

take in the section, that in preparing the bill the word 'section' was used instead of the word 'act,' unless indeed, the framers of the bill intended to have added to section 2 a subsection 'C' empowering the city to pass a by-law, but no such provision is to be found in the section.

"The city in preparing the by-law adopts—mutatis mutandis—the language of section 2 of the Act defining the meaning of the words 'shop' and 'closed.' It may be disputed that the legislature would have the power to say what shops should be closed, but it is doubtful if the city has the power to do so; the only authority of the city is to be found in section 5 of the Early Closing Act, where it is provided that the city may in a by-law require 'all shops' within the city to be closed, and in the afternoon which is within their power, but they could not have said 5 o'clock in the afternoon because their power was limited as above; again in section 5 of the Early Closing Act, where it is provided that the city may in a by-law require 'all shops' within the city to be closed, and in the afternoon which is within their power, but they could not have said 5 o'clock in the afternoon because their power was limited as above; again in section 5 of the Early Closing Act, where it is provided that the city may in a by-law require 'all shops' within the city to be closed, and in the afternoon which is within their power, but they could not have said 5 o'clock in the afternoon because their power was limited as above; 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