

The St. John Standard

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1911-1919.

On Feb. 10th, 1911, Mr. T. H. Bullock said to The Standard:

"St. John cannot afford to pay from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year to representatives, and neither is there any need for those who represent the city to give their whole time to the city's affairs. Take the present Mayor or myself. We could not have devoted more attention to the city's affairs if we had been paid \$6,000 a year. Good representative men who will give up something for the city are needed. With reference to Cedar Rapids, their tax rate is \$3.95, while ours is \$1.99. The Frontage Tax, as it is called by the citizens of Cedar Rapids, would not get here for a minute."

Mr. Bullock is now one of St. John's commissioners, and is in receipt of some thousands of dollars per year for doing the same amount of work that he formerly did for a few hundreds of dollars. This is not Mr. Bullock's fault. It is due to the fact that St. John is today paying thousands for work formerly done for hundreds, and according to Mr. Bullock's own declaration he is not devoting himself to the administration of civic affairs any more enthusiastically than in these years during which he was a member of the old Council. What is true in his case is equally true of other commissioners who have served on the Board, and if we should judge by the statement of this one man who has had long experience at City Hall, St. John is now paying from \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year, most of which is paid needlessly. If there had been the marked improvement in civic administration which the promoters of the commission plan led people to expect, this outlay would not be serious.

It will be noted that Mr. Bullock, as quoted above, declared that the people of St. John would not stand for a permanent tax rate of \$3.95, as was then in effect in Cedar Rapids, in comparison with \$1.99 in St. John. Yet the tax rate in St. John, shortly to be announced, will very nearly approach that existing in Cedar Rapids in 1911, which Mr. Bullock declared "would not get here for a minute." The past few years of Commission Government have thus been responsible for an increase in the tax rate which, in the opinion of one of our present commissioners, should be regarded as beyond all reason, and it is not apparent that St. John has benefited by this increase rate to anything like the extent we were led to expect. Of course Commission has not been wholly responsible for the regular advances, a portion of the increase being due to the higher salaries, and materials used in the various civic departments. But Commission has been responsible for its own failure to bring about those improvements in administration of which our ratepayers were induced to make the change.

CANADIAN GRAVES.

Canadians who have lost relatives in France and Belgium will be deeply interested in the information given to parliament a day or two ago by Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Overseas Forces, during the course of a statement covering the operations of his department in the past few years. Hon. Mr. Kemp anticipates that as years go by there will be an increasing number of parents, wives, brothers and sisters visiting the graves of their dead, and he is pleased to be able to tell the people of Canada that all possible is being done to provide proper permanent burial for Canadian soldiers. In addition to the many cemeteries which have been provided, there are one hundred and sixty thousand isolated graves on the battlefields of France and Belgium. Practically all these graves are marked in a sufficiently definite manner to permit of accurate identification, but it is not known just how many of these contain the bodies of Canadian soldiers. In the whole war area on the western front there are buried 555,373 British soldiers, out of which total the United Kingdom accounts for 452,730, Canada 43,631, Australia 25,131, New Zealand 11,393, South Africa 4,985, Newfoundland 583, India 5,665, British West Indies 956. For some time before the armistice was signed, and continuing since that date, soldiers from Britain and all possessions represented on the firing line, have been exhuming the bodies of their men from these isolated graves and re-interring them in the regularized cemeteries. Working corps of from six hundred to seven hundred Canadians who went to Britain under the Military Service Act have been engaged in this work, but recently some of these men have been relieved and their places taken by volunteers from among the numbers who still remained in England, and who had gone across under the Military Service Act. It is anticipated that, from now on, at least one thousand such volunteers will be constantly employed in this work of caring for the bodies of their fellow Canadians, and should the undertaking not be completed by the time the turn of the men comes for demobilization, they will be brought home just the same as civilian labor employed. Thus, perhaps by the time the regularized cemeteries are completed, the normal conditions are restored, and

graves of the Canadian dead in France and Belgium will be satisfactorily arranged.

LABOR IN CANADA.

The gradual extension of labor disputes both East and West from Winnipeg is an evidence of two things—active campaigning by leaders in the movement and the existence of a deep-seated discontent. It indicates a condition which cannot readily be dealt with by any local organization, but which must be accepted as being practically a national condition calling for a nation-wide remedy. It is useless to believe that any agreement which may be reached between the striking unions of Winnipeg and the Employers' organizations of that city can result in a settlement of the difficulties apparent elsewhere. No one individual community can possibly reach a compromise which will overcome the discontented feeling among the working classes of other provinces. The solution of the problem must come from Ottawa in the form of some clearly defined policy regarding the relations between labor and capital in such a way that serious disturbances as now exist will be rendered impossible in future, not merely because they will be made unlawful, but because the conditions leading to such disturbances may no longer exist.

There is of course the freely expressed conviction that Labor has gone too far. This is the opinion of capitalists and employers. There is an equally expressed opinion that capital has been running the country for too long a time. This is the opinion of organized labor. Neither one is necessarily correct. Nor is it possible that at any time any one class shall be supreme in the affairs of the Dominion. In such a country as this, indeed in any country, no one group may carry on the government or control the administration and do it successfully. If Canada is to go ahead industrially and to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities awaiting it, all parties must co-operate for the common good. We can have no progress worth mentioning unless capital and labor go hand in hand. At the same time it should be understood that those playing the part of employers will not permit their interests to be affected by the activities of extremists, nor should organized labor in any portion of the Dominion allow itself to be influenced by the arguments of self-seeking agitators.

THE BOOTLEGGERS.

The Maritime Baptist expresses the opinion that the bootlegging business in the City of St. John is conducted under the supervision of a central or organization which becomes responsible for the fines of those engaged in the traffic who happen to be caught and which generally superintends the local distribution and sale of liquor. This is highly improbable, for while it may be true that certain among the bootlegging interests are acting in harmony, the existence of a central controlling organization is very questionable indeed. Nor is there any reason to believe that many persons formerly engaged in the liquor business in this city are involved in the illegal distribution now so common. In fact it may be accepted as true that all the more reputable dealers of former days have entirely given up the liquor business, and if any of the old group now remain and are violators of the law, these include the less reputable who carried on business under license. But it may be taken for granted that speaking generally the illegal liquor traffic is now in the hands of a new element, many of whom were not in any way previously connected with the sale of liquor, but who, realizing the opportunity for making money legally, have during the past year or more engaged in this work. And it cannot reasonably be supposed that individuals branching out in this way for themselves have come sufficiently close together to form a united working organization along the line suggested by the Maritime Baptist. No doubt there is co-operation among certain groups whose activities cover the same districts and they may, if necessary, assist each other in the payment of fines. But this is as far as the matter goes.

Here is English as she is wrote according to Canadian Press, in its report of a murder trial at Sherbrooke. St. John papers among others published, "Questioned as to his guilt of the crime, Gagne hung his head and said nothing. However, afterwards, he contradicted himself. Finally the young boy said, 'I killed him.' All of which is very interesting, if true.

WHAT THEY SAY

Great Boon to the West. Toronto Times—Reports from the various Soldiers' Settlement administration centres in the West indicate that possibly 5,000 applications made by returned men have been approved. At 160 acres each this means the taking up of 800,000 acres of land. But the movement is only beginning to get under way. If the scheme is not too badly "knocked" by mistaken criticism it is reasonable to suppose that

between 5,000,000 and 4,000,000 acres will, in this way, be taken up. Think of what it means to have this addition to permanent settlement in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Twenty-five thousand such settlers getting an average loan of \$4,000 would mean \$100,000,000 put out in three provinces.

Would Be an Outrage.

Hamilton Herald—The Montreal Journal of Commerce says it would be amazing if any considerable number of dairy farmers desire to have the ban on oleomargarine replaced. It would be far more amazing if the Dominion government were to authorize any such outrage upon the consuming public.

Moderation Called For.

Toronto Star—The question at issue is not whether the employers or the workmen shall win a victory, but whether the cities shall be governed by a few extremists on each side or by the moderate people who compose the overwhelming majority of the community. Unless the moderates assert themselves the extremists will have their way, and the people will suffer.

Will They Strike.

Vancouver Province—Calgary school girls resent the action of the school board in banning the use of powder puffs and rouge. They declare they are justified in protecting their complexions against the ravages of burning suns and tanning winds. Better come to the Coast, girls, where a beneficent climate assures the bloom of youth without resorting to chemicals.

The Liberal Press.

Calgary Herald—Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux made a fool of himself when he stated that the Liberal press of Canada which supported Union government had been bought. In addition to making a fool of himself, he probably knew he was telling a falsehood at the time, because he could not possibly have had any real evidence to support his statement. The Liberal press of Canada, which came out in support of Union government at the last election, displayed an unselfish patriotism in its attitude that has seldom been equaled by any press, and there was not money enough in the whole Dominion of Canada to induce it to take the stand it took from any other reason.

Church Union.

Sydney N. S. Record—There is reason to believe that the consumption of the union of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches may now be effected in the very near future. When the vote was taken on the question some years ago the circular favoring union set forth the following reasons for the action: the condition of the newer west, the weakened state of rural churches in older Canada, the social disorder of city slums, the problem of the foreigner, and the need of the heathen world. The Presbyterian communicant vote was 106,755 for and 48,278 against; the Methodist, 150,841 for and 48,788 against; the Congregational, 2,334 for and 813 against. A weakening of class distinction and a changed sense of spiritual values due to the war, as well as general appreciation of the urgency of united religious effort is now giving impetus to the movement.

A BIT OF VERSE

DANISH MARY.

(By Percy MacKaye.)

Twas Danish Mary picked them up
Out of the air and sent:
A shoddy, trudging lollypop
A-trapping stately.

The cry rang north, the cry rang south:
"The vanished—where are they?"

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

People is born without clothes to prove everybody is free and equal, but as soon as they get old enough to realize if they stop appearing in public without any. The only people that don't mind looking free and equal is babies, and they even have their pictures taken free and equal.

A fashionable way of judging people is by their clothes. Thus if you see a man with holes in his shoes and a dent in his hat and no collar and a dirty shirt, you generally don't invite him in.

Shoes are the clothes which keep the bottom of your feet from being tickled. They come in pairs and boxes, and when a pair is once took out of a box the box is only useful for other purposes. If you put your left shoe on your right foot, and vice versa, you will look funny, but you won't look any funnier than what you feel. Even if your shoes are not bowditch, they are probably more bowditch than your feet.

Rubbers are the same relation to gum boots as what a cat is to a tiger, being the same family only domestic. When one rubber gets stuck in the mud without being noticed, the other rubber never goes out again.

No matter how good a person is dressed, if they haven't got a hat in the street something seems to be missing.

But Danish Mary shut her mouth
And shuffled on her way.

"Ho, Hawker!—Grieve!"—on flying
And shuffled on her way.

Called kingdoms and called kings:
But Danish Mary chewed her cud
In drowsy manderings.

Now "Lost!" cried West, and "Lost!"
cried East.

Till "Perished!" like a pall,
Turned bonfire-light and boning feast
More dark than funeral.

And toward the hollow sky rose
And dirge of steeples chimed:
But what should Danish Mary care?
She takes her own sweet time.

And hawls to Lewis Butt: "It's me!
I've picked 'em up—your men."
"What!—Grieve and Hawker?"
And she goes shambling on again.

But lightning engines flash and light
The jacksies swarm from bay and bight
And race to run her down.

And win, and bear her prize away—
While Mary turns to prowl
Once more where slips the dumb, salt
And slaps her on the jawl.

A BIT OF FUN

Job Lot.
Seeing the newly arrived twins,
Little Bess exclaimed, "Oh, mamma,
was there a sale on 'em?"

Green as Grass.
"Bridget, what in the world are you
sprinkling ashes on the floor for?"
"Shure, ma'am, an didn't yes say to
doost the parlor?"

Revised.
In the light of the present wrangles
at the peace table perhaps one of the
beatitudes should be rewritten to read:
"Blessed are the peace makers; for
they all want to inherit the earth."

Honest.
"Is he honest?" He told the govern-
ment exactly what his income was
and he doesn't tell his friends that
his tax is larger than it really is."

Just as Effective.
Mother—Did you tell Tommy he
mustn't ask visitors for money?
Father—Yes, but I noticed he leaves
his bank ostentatiously in the parlor.
—Edinburgh Scotsman.

His Heart Out of the Way.
Wounded Tommy (in hospital)—
Yes (mum. I was shot right through
here (pointing to his left side).
Visitor—Oh, but that is impossible!

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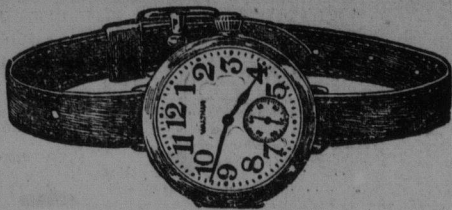


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