

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

## LORD SHAUGHNESSY'S PLAN

As a contribution to the discussion on the National Railway question, Lord Shaughnessy's proposal for the solution of the difficulty is interesting at least. As to its practicability, however, that is quite another matter, as also is its popularity. The C. P. R. president was quite prepared to be charged with a desire to work through some scheme that would benefit his Company, in making his proposal, and public opinion, as expressed so far, regarding it seems to be that any benefit to be gained by adopting it, would accrue to the C. P. R. in greater measure than to any other interest.

No one is going to dispute the correctness of Lord Shaughnessy's premises at any rate. There can be no question that owing to the disastrous railway building mania of the Laurier Administration, and the follies of Messrs. Mackenzie & Mead, Canada is decidedly overladen with railways which can never be anything else than a dead loss and an incubus to the country for many years yet to come. The cost of operation and maintenance of lines running through undeveloped country, which produce no traffic, must necessarily result in heavy loss, much more prevalent in the nature of profits being made. This condition of affairs must remain if operation of these lines is continued under present circumstances; until the country is very much more densely populated, and traffic is created, no change in conditions is possible.

Nevertheless, the country is hardly yet prepared to accept Lord Shaughnessy's suggestion that these roads should be turned over to any body of corporation which would operate them in conjunction with the C. P. R. No doubt co-operation with the latter system would result in doing away with a good deal of unnecessary duplication of services, and in some other respects might not doubt be productive of improvements in the way of cheapening the cost of operation; but there would still remain the feeling among a large section of the people that the C. P. R. had "put one over" on the country at large if any such proposal as is now made were agreed to. As far as this phase of the matter is concerned, however, if Lord Shaughnessy's suggestion was actually shown to be a beneficial one for the country, there is no reason why it should not be accepted by the C. P. R. at the expense of the Government. However, no government would go the length of asking Parliament to accept Lord Shaughnessy's proposal until the opinion of the electorate had been taken upon it.

## CANADA AT WASHINGTON

Next to the discussion concerning the purchase of the Grand Trunk, the most important subject that Parliament dealt with last week was the question of the appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington. This post, provision for which was made as far back as two years ago, the money being voted at each successive session since, involves a new constitutional departure, one of those steps in the evolutionary growth of the Dominion which have become quite common since the war. It was taken after the fullest consultation and most complete agreement with the British Government, as well as with the practically unanimous consent of the Canadian Parliament. For the reason, however, that it is not easy to select a man qualified for the post and also for the reason that an election was held in the United States, involving a change of Governments at Washington, there has been delay in making an appointment, and this delay unfortunately, has been misunderstood. It has been represented that the British Government was holding the matter up, that Sir Auckland Geddes visited Ottawa to quash the proposal, and that the Prime Minister himself was hostile to such a step. All this was set at rest last week. Mr. Bessie declared without qualification that he favored the idea, that such an appointment had become necessary, and he added that it was the intention of his Government to fill the post as soon as a suitable man could be found. The debate was notable for two things; the scholarly discourse of Sir Robert Borden on the constitutional development of the Dominion, and the "We are still a Colony" speech of Mr. Fielding. The latter, much to the disgust of the autonomists, in his own country, is still living back in Crown Colony days, and views the growth of Canada into a status of equality with the British Commonwealth of Nations as a menace.

## THE CONTEST

As a result of the Circulation Contest, in which the names of the prize winners are today announced, the Standard finds itself in the enjoyment of a subscription list which it believes to be unequalled in the Maritime Provinces. This paper has never previously gone after what is known as transient circulation, that which is formed of street or agency sales, believing that the interests of advertisers are best served by catering to home circulation. A paper which is delivered regularly into the home is more carefully read than one picked up on the street; and while there may be, and no doubt are, other publications which enjoy a greater bulk circulation than does the Standard, this paper now holds a position which must be considered as very gratifying indeed in the matter of home delivered circulation. During the contest just closed more than thirty one hundred new subscriptions have been added to our lists, of which number a fairly large proportion are in this city. Those who participated in the contest worked well; and while all could not win prizes, it is felt that the cash commissions compensate in some degree at least for the work done.

## NO AMERICAN SYMPATHY

Germany is not getting much sympathy from the new American administration. President Harding has quite properly refused to accede to the appeal to him to act as mediator in the reparations sum to be paid. M. Viviani left for France last week after a visit to the American people, carrying with him undoubtedly the goodwill of the republic and the official expression of wish that Germany shall be forced to make all reparations that is within her power. The common sense of the American people has been asserted recently and the pro-German and Sinn Fein effort to cause dissension among the Allies has dimly faded. M. Viviani was given where ever he went a magnificent reception and there was no doubt as to the feelings of the mass of the people towards the Allies and towards Germany.

The New York Times, commenting on the mission, says: "Wherever M. Viviani went Americans showed their eager and resolute desire that France shall not be cheated by her old enemy, that Germany shall not be allowed to wiggle out of her bond. M. Viviani must have been greatly cheered to find that, for all the boasts and jubilation of the self-deceived friends of Germany here, the American people stand today as they stood in 1917. Their warm friendship for France is beyond question. He takes back with him a knowledge of our undiminished sympathy with his country, our undiminished distrust of Germany till she brings forth works meet for repentance."

## A RESERVOIR OF WEALTH

A nine-foot vein of silver ore has been found in the Yukon. What need certainly put itself on the map these days? The famous gold deposits which drew the world's attention to the Yukon twenty years ago were taken as being rather a freak of nature; it was not expected that they would be discovered in the Arctic regions. Now an off well is spouting fifteen hundred miles down the Mackenzie, and scattered over the intervening vastness quite a number of the earth. Perhaps before many years the half of Canada that was once and for long thought to be of little value will be found to be worth more than the farming belt.

The Labor Gazette brings the cheering news that the cost of the family food budget in Canada averaged \$12.25 per week at the beginning of March, compared with \$14.08 at the beginning of February, and \$15.58 a year before. If the monthly subsistence is not great it is steady. And winter months are those in which the cost level is likely to show the least change. The new season's products of one kind and another will begin to come on the market soon, and the downward movement is liable to show more speed.

Archbishop Bruchet at Montreal has been "going after" feminine fashions, the "dance evil," moving picture films, and the Y. M. C. A. On the other subjects there will be division of opinion on both sides of the house, but in the matter of feminine dress, the objections will come mainly from the female of the species. Whatever they may be made to answer for, the women cannot blame the men for the way they dress.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

**The New British Unionist Leader.**  
 Mr. Chamberlain has none of his father's dash and brilliance, and he would be unlikely to make his father's headstrong mistakes, but he has great industry and admirable skill. He is a ready and capable debater, and above all he has a character which commands universal respect. If he was not nourished on the pure milk of the Conservative word he has assimilated a sufficient stock of the Conservative spirit. He is trusted as a straight, sincere, disinterested man, and these are qualities which happily count heavily in our public life.—Manchester Guardian.

**Pussyfoot's Motive Power.**  
 "Pussyfoot" Johnson told the New York reporters that he had a lot of fun in Canada. "I tried to make more noise than 15,000 Canadians," he said, "but it can't be done. 'But it was a lot of fun, and if I didn't have fun, I'd die.'"  
 "Pussyfoot" seems to be what the boys call a good sport. As he is a fun-loving fellow, he must have had his fun. Some people seek their one way, some another. Mr. Johnson enjoys himself best when he finds himself where the excitement is greatest. There are many like him. Excitement is necessary for their existence. That is why they become agitators and seek to become leaders. But they are not all so honest about it as Mr. Johnson. Many of them disguise their motives. They try to convince others—and themselves as well as doubt—that they are influenced only by their love for their fellow-men and their desire for the public good. Mr. Johnson admits that he must have fun or die.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

**"H. C. L." and Wages in U. S.**  
 A graphic and concise exhibition is given in the New York Evening Post of the relationship between the movements of wages and the cost of living based upon the authentic data of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and of the National Industrial Conference Board.  
 In this the figures prevailing in the fall of 1918 are taken as par, in both wages of artisans and the cost of living, also of artisans and their families.

The figures show, of course, a general parallel between the two movements, though with some significant divergences.  
 Thus the maximum increase in cost of living, attained last summer, was 100 per cent.  
 The maximum increase in wages, attained last fall, was 127 per cent.  
 Thus while the two increases began substantially together, that in wages lasted longer and reached a higher point than that in cost of living.—Harvey's Weekly.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## THE CALL OF THE ROAD.

I ken a road, a bonnie road,  
 An' the like o' it's unco few—  
 Where the fairies dance to the Pipes  
 O' Fann.  
 An' sport in the mornin' dew;  
 Where the violet raises her modest head  
 In the lush-green grasses, as by I tread.  
 Ah! 'Twas built for me an' you.

I ken a path, a winding path  
 Through the forest, green and gay  
 Where "Jacks-in-the-pulpit" all in a row  
 May preach for you like day;  
 There are emerald mosses, and lichens fine,  
 Feather ferns an' columbines;  
 Ah! 'Tis grand in the month of May.

I ken a path, a bonnie path,  
 Through a wavin' field o' grain,  
 Turning from green to mellow gold,  
 With scurrying at the summer's rain;  
 It fills the soul with a keen delight,  
 And a grateful heart's refrain.

## THE LAUGH LINE

Some people believe too much and others not enough.

Vamp: A wicked creature who tempts a man after he has spent weeks trying to attract her attention.

Say it with flowers, but don't throw bouquets at yourself.—Life.

Point of View.  
 Editor: I know an old man, but he's too old to be considered eligible? Marie—On the other hand, my dear he is too eligible to be considered old.

Colorless Biography.  
 "Mr. Wadleigh, I want to write the story of your life."  
 "It wouldn't interest anybody."  
 "But you've made millions of dollars."  
 "Oh, yes, but I've never slept in an attic, I received a college education and the first job I ever got paid me \$20 a week."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Only Made It Worse.  
 Dreammaker—I have come to see you, sir, about Mrs. Brown's account. Brown (angrily)—Why don't you see my wife about it and not come to me?  
 Dreammaker—I have several times, but every time I call she does nothing but scold at me.—New York Herald.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Me and Puds Simkins was wawking along tawking about vacation coming and the high cost of candy and different things, and we passed somebody's front steps with a sassy looking kid setting on them, me saying to Puds, G. look wata setting back there with the big blue necktie on, I bet I could lick him with one hand behind my back and my fingers crossed.  
 I bet I could lick him so quick he wouldn't know wat hit him and he wouldn't have strength enuff left to find out, sed Puds.  
 Lets go back and start to get fresh with him just to see wat he'll say, I sed.  
 Wich we went back and started to do, Puds saying, Hello kid, does your mamma know you're out?  
 Certonly, sed the kid. Properly not even knowing he was being insulted, and I sed, Wats the big deer of the big necktie, kid? Are you trying to hide from somebody?  
 Wy? How? sed the kid. Proving wat a dum kid he was, and Puds sed, Wat would you do if somebody came up and gave you a good bust in the snoot?  
 I call my brother, sed the assy looking kid. Wich just then another kid came out of the house with his cap pulled down tuff, the assy looking kid saying, Hello Bill, these fellows want to know wat id do if they gave me a bust in the snoot.  
 O they do, heft sed the tuff looking kid, and Puds quick sed, We do not anything of the kind, we didnt say anything about us giving him a bust in the snoot, all we sed was suppose somebody did, we didnt say us at all nothing of the kind.  
 Wich we didnt, and the tuff looking kid sed, Go on, take a wawk before I spit in your eye and drawd you.  
 Wich we did.

## GET JOBS BACK.

Mrs. Anna H. Collins of Aurora, Ill., her in my arms, and—here's half-crown for you, John. Do you suppose has begun to build her own home after her own ideas and, despite her 60 years of age, plans to finish the work without the aid of any man.  
 The Swedish Parliament has passed a bill making women eligible for all the higher posts in the civil service (including military and diplomatic posts) on the principle of equal pay for equal work.  
 Yab women do not wear the veil. Their only dress is a voluminous skirt made of leaves and fibre and composed of four or five thicknesses. Although one month is the average life of a woman's dress, the style does not change.

Mrs. S. A. Page, of Page, Neb., celebrated her 70th birthday by perfecting an invention which may revolutionize spinning industry in America. It is an attachment for her sewing machine, which enables her to twist or spin her own yarn for knitting.  
 Rev. Mrs. Martha Rogers, assistant pastor of a Brooklyn, N. Y., church, besides being the first of her sex in the East to be licensed as a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, is the first woman to be admitted to membership in the New York Pressers' Meeting Association.

"Father, didn't you ever get licked when you were a boy?"  
 "Indeed I did."  
 "Well, then, what's the use trying it on me?"

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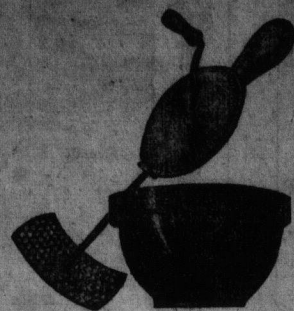
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Church Has Claim For Prayer

Newcastle, Pa., April 25.—The results obtained in cases, thousands of persons Shenango valley are convinced of the assertion Thomas Reynolds, rector of the Episcopal church, that to heal the sick, enable walk and the blind to pray and the laying on of the prayer circle and was established in more than a year ago. Its ing through Western and Eastern Ohio.

Doctor Reynolds says the revival of the power always been in the church since its inception nearly ago.

Civil Servants' To Remain

Ottawa, April 25.—Des tests of many civil servants has decided to first decision and the first bonus for 1921-22 by an order-in-council was meeting of the cabinet 8 ing the regulations for that are practically those effective during the fiscal year with the imence of 25 per cent. in authorized for each class.

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