

# The Standard

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## THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

The programme of legislation outlined in the speech from the throne is a clear indication that Mr. Borden's platform on which he won his great victory on September 21 was not made up of mere pre-election promises signifying nothing. The Premier has proved himself a man of his word. Parliament will have before it during this session legislation of far reaching importance in which every Province in the Dominion has a vital interest.

Notably is this the case in the announcement that a bill will be introduced to provide the country with better highways. The Government, in fulfillment of Mr. Borden's promise, is prepared to co-operate with the Provinces in the construction of permanent roads. The impetus which will be given to the work of improving the highways by the addition of Federal aid cannot be overestimated. It will mean much to the farmers and in fact to the rural population throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Of equal, if not greater importance, is the promised introduction of a measure for co-operation between the Dominion and the various Provinces for the encouragement of agriculture. The Government recognizes that success in this great industry is the basis on which the prosperity of Canada rests. The bill, which will be introduced into Parliament at an early date, is designed to accomplish two notable objects—the assistance and encouragement of the farmers to secure the best results in production, and the preservation of the fertility of the soil. A campaign of education and cooperation along these lines, with the addition of substantial aid from the Dominion treasury, is a policy every farmer will appreciate.

The introduction of a bill to establish a permanent tariff commission is a guarantee that every industry in Canada will receive due consideration and that complaints and discrepancies in the tariff will be adjusted before an impartial tribunal. The Canadian people will not fail to contrast Mr. Borden's prompt and business like announcement with Sir Wilfrid Laurier's failure to grapple with this great question. During his tour of the West the late Premier gave a definite pledge to appoint a commission before any change in the tariff was made, subsequently confirming this decision on the floors of Parliament. The contempt with which Sir Wilfrid treated this solemn pledge is now history. Without warning or mandate, the pilgrimage to Washington was arranged and all the strength of the Liberal Government was combined to force reciprocity on an unwilling people. The ignominious defeat of the Liberal Administration was the direct result. In Mr. Borden's manifesto, issued prior to his tour of the West, the promise of a permanent tariff commission if returned to power was definitely given and reiterated by the Conservative leader at every meeting. His prompt acknowledgment of his responsibility as outlined in the speech from the throne is convincing evidence that in Mr. Borden the people have a man whose word they can rely upon and whose pledge they can trust.

Other matters of importance to come before Parliament include the improvement of trade arrangements with the British West Indies and British Guiana; a revision of the acts relating to the inspection of grain, and a bill to establish a commission to secure Government control and operation of the terminal elevators on the Great Lakes. The selection of the best route for the Hudson Bay railway will also be the subject of enquiry. The Government starts on its legislative career with a well considered and practical programme, progressive in the subjects dealt with and appealing in its scope to every section of this wide community. No speech from the throne for many years has placed before the people so comprehensive and popular an announcement of coming legislation.

## ANOTHER VISIT FROM THE "CHIEF SCOUT."

The first national review of the Boy Scouts of America will take place, according to the Boston Transcript, during February and March, when General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, K.C.B., founder and "chief scout" of the Boy Scouts of England, will go to the United States on a lecturing tour, including Canada in his itinerary. While in the neighboring republic Sir Robert will visit Boston, following a greeting to be tendered him in New York by the National Council of the American organization, and, though the plans for his journey are not complete, he is likely to be heard at Philadelphia and Washington. In Canada he will probably speak at Montreal and Toronto, and be entertained at Ottawa by the Governor General. He hopes to go as far as the Pacific coast. General Baden-Powell will be accompanied on most of his journeys through the States by Executive Secretary West of the Boy Scouts of America. In the Dominion the heads of the new movement, which is proportionately stronger in this country than in the United States, are making elaborate plans for a rebirth of enthusiasm.

The announcement of this important visit by the "Chief Scout" should perhaps be supplemented by mention of the British Boy Scouts, a new organization headed by Sir Francis Vane, which lays special stress upon the sentiment of international brotherhood. It has been objected in Great Britain that the older society was dominated by enthusiasts for the plan of universal military service, men like Lord Roberts and Lord Charles Berosford, and though this criticism is given more weight than rightfully attaches to it, the British Boy Scouts seem to have enlisted a considerable body of sentiment in support of a "peace section."

British, French and Italian scouts fraternized at the first summer camp of the new association, some months ago, thus to emphasize the ideal of doing away with racial prejudice and assert the possibility of a patriotism sufficiently broad-minded to recognize the good qualities of other nations. We see no reason to suppose that the earlier movement markedly falls short in this particular, but of course there is room for both societies. The important point at present is that Canadians should prepare a generous welcome for General Sir Robert Baden-Powell. His high, unselfish motive at least is beyond dispute.

## A NATION OF SMOKERS.

In the report for the fiscal year ended March 31 last, the excise service of the Department of Inland Revenue shows a steady growth. The consumption per head of alcoholic liquors in Canada still remains small, however, when set beside that of Great Britain or Germany. Down to 1885 the average consumption of spirits per head, as shown by the customs and excise returns, sometimes rose till it was close upon two gallons, and sometimes fell below one gallon. Since 1885 it has varied from 0.623 of

a gallon to 0.947 of a gallon. Last year it was 0.859 of a gallon, slightly exceeding the figures of the two preceding years. It is in this connection to be remembered, of course, that spirits are used in the arts and in medicine, and it does not follow that all that is made or imported and sold goes down thimble or other throats for the satisfaction of appetite or in conforming with social customs, and incidentally for the increasing of the revenue. The tax on legally made alcohol is high, and produced in the year noted a revenue that averaged \$1.80 a head of the population.

In the case of beer, the story of the spirit trade is reversed. For some years after 1869, to which year the records go back, there were fluctuations in the figures of the annual consumption, which generally was under three gallons a head. In 1887, when a decline in the consumption of spirits had set in, the consumption of beer went permanently above the three gallon mark. In 1900 it reached four gallons a head, and in 1906 it passed five gallons. Last year it was 5.424 gallons, or about twenty-one quarts.

There are in Canada, it appears, fifteen distilleries and 121 breweries, with good Ontario in the lead, followed by the Provinces with nine distilleries and 58 breweries. The quantity of spirits actually produced during the year was 5,255,000 gallons, and 4,146,000 gallons was "taken for consumption." The chief materials used in production were 52,080,000 pounds of corn, 18,531,000 pounds of molasses, 11,320,000 pounds of rye, and 5,766,000 pounds of malt. There were minor quantities of oats, barley and rice. The breweries consumed 96,386,000 pounds of malt and produced 41,752,000 gallons of brew of various strengths.

If Canadians are moderate consumers of alcoholic beverages, they are becoming a nation of mighty smokers. Their use of the fragrant weed has been steadily growing for years, and in 1910-1911 reached the high mark of 3,011 pounds a head, according to the tables of the report. A great part of the growth is due to the use of the much discussed cigarette. Whether in the cigarette the consumer gets tobacco, as the claim is, in the purest form in which it can be smoked, or whether it is the awful thing the anti would have us believe, it is growing in favor at a great rate. Last year duty was paid on 556,000,000, whereas in 1908-9 only 356,756,000 were required to meet the demand. In the same period there was an increase in the number of cigars made and entered for consumption from 192,000,000 to 227,000,000. The man who thinks a real smoke can only be had out of a pipe, it would appear, is dropping into the minority.

## A CHINESE REPUBLIC.

A Chinese republic appears to be the objective of the present revolutionary war in the far East, and indications so far point to the movement being crowned with success. One of these days our ears may hear of "President Li Yuan Heng of China," or President Sun Yat Sen. A consolidation of the Provinces under one name, "The United States of China," for instance, is exactly what the revolutionary party proposes.

The impressive thing about the Chinese rebellion as it is now developing is that its organizers and leaders are all men who have either lived in foreign countries as students in colleges and universities or as coolie laborers. We have always regarded China as a great feudal State, and so it is, but its history shows that public sentiment has always been a great factor, and in those who know the Empire best know that there is a tendency to democracy that is not found in European monarchies. The organization of the "States" is already laid in the eighteen provinces; and in the provincial advisory councils they have the local self-government seed which can be grown into Legislatures. In each Province, even in isolated Szechuen, there are educated Chinese who have received their training abroad and who are competent to guide.

One cannot, indeed, but be impressed with the plans for the republic to be. It has its arsenal; it has \$2,000,000 money and gold notes printed in English, and in its statement to the world it serves notice that all foreign treaties, loans and concessions now in force will be recognized by the new Government and it prays for friendship, if not recognition. Care has been taken to protect foreigners and their families. And on top of all this is the declaration that if the revolution is successful the military government that might be temporarily necessary shall not be continued beyond three years and that for a period of six years there shall be instruction of the people in self-government, and at the expiration of nine years will come the formal establishment of a republic in which the vote shall be extended to all men and women alike who conform to certain educational requirements. The plan and campaign alike are the work of educated men, not of a mob.

## Current Comment

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

In the plebiscite of last January a small majority of the total vote was cast for the Commission Form of City Government, while the minority was something evenly divided between the existing system and the Board of Control method. But the total vote on these propositions was much smaller than that cast in the majority contest, so that the declaration in favor of the Commission was not so conclusive as might be desired for such a radical change in municipal administration. One reason why many electors failed to vote on the question a year ago was their uncertainty as to the details of the proposed new system. The issue then submitted was academic and abstract. Now that the proposition most favored has been worked out in detail it is only fair that the people should have a chance to accept or reject it on its own merits, without regard to alternative projects.

(London Free Press.)

If the old proverb holds that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Hon. W. J. Hanna is receiving it in plenty for his achievement in connection with the prison farm work. Manitoba is the latest to take up the idea, and a strong sentiment is developing in the Western Province in favor of the humanitarian plan that has proven so successful in Ontario.

(Bocaygeon Independent.)

The recent vote in the State of Maine on the repeal of prohibition of the sale of liquors, is officially declared to have been a majority of 758 against repeal. The vote was as to whether liquors should be sold legally under regulation, or illegally without regulation. The result was slightly in favor of the blind-pig method.

(Kansas City Times.)

On some rainy afternoon when you have nothing else to do, try your hand at answering this question from the Ozark Republican: "Has anyone stopped to figure out what was done with all the money before people began to buy motor cars?"

(Hamilton Spectator.)

The sum of \$11,761,000, representing the amount of the catch of Canada's sea fish, will give some idea to inlanders of the value of this asset to the country for the past six months.

(Vancouver World.)

Yes, dear children, that white, soggy, cold stuff that came down yesterday was snow. Did you keep a little of it as a curiosity? You may not get another chance this winter.

## LARGE ATTENDANCE AT HARVEST SUPPER

Enjoyable Supper and Entertainment in St. Mary's Sunday School Room, Last Evening—Those in Charge.

There was a large attendance at the harvest supper and entertainment given in the St. Mary's church school-room last evening. The tables were set in the basement and were in charge of the following ladies: Ice cream and candy—Mrs. H. J. Barton, Mrs. F. J. Wright, Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Dooe, Miss Patton, Miss Donohue, Mrs. E. V. Wetmore, Mrs. R. J. Sullivan.

First table—Mrs. S. H. Givan, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. D. Morrell, Mrs. McAuley, Mrs. St. Mary, Mrs. W. H. Irving, Miss Nilsson, Miss B. Sproul, Second table—Mrs. F. L. Foley, Mrs. L. Eckerbrecht, Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Farnham, Miss Mann, Miss Eckerbrecht, Miss Foley, Miss M. Mann. Third table—Mrs. H. R. Coleman, Mrs. A. P. Simpson, Mrs. J. Knowles, Mrs. Brudine, Miss W. Raymond, Miss Garnett, Miss F. Coleman, Miss M. Sullivan, Miss M. Lane.

Servers—Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Leonard, Mrs. Emery, Mrs. Ellison, Mrs. Phinney, Mrs. J. Lane, Mrs. R. Lane. In the evening the hall was crowded with an enthusiastic audience when a most enjoyable programme was carried through.

Rev. Dr. W. O. Raymond presided and opened the programme with an address of welcome, Miss H. Dunham and A. J. Targetts followed with solos. Col. J. B. M. Baxter gave an interesting address and was followed with a musical sketch by F. J. Punter and J. H. Wilson. A violin solo was given by Mrs. West and A. Chapple was heard to advantage in a vocal solo. Walter Nixon rendered a whistling solo and was followed by a character sketch by F. J. Punter. Mrs. Munroe sang a solo and the evening's entertainment was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem. Dr. Arnold Fox presided at the piano and the entertainment was one of the most enjoyable held in the St. Mary's rooms for some time.

## INTERESTING LECTURE ON FAMOUS CATHEDRAL

Mrs. G. F. Scovill Lectured on Canterbury, in Natural History Society's Cathedral Course Yesterday.

The second lecture of the cathedral course in the Natural History rooms was given yesterday afternoon by Mrs. G. F. Scovill, the lecture was illustrated with very fine views. Mrs. Scovill gave an interesting account of Canterbury city and the surrounding country and compared the gay life of Paris with the sober and beautiful scenery of the cathedral city. Mrs. Scovill went on to describe the famous buildings in the town and views were shown of the old Norman castle that was the third largest of its kind in England. It is now used for a coal cellar, but the company that have put it to such a use intend to turn it over to the municipality so that it may be preserved as a relic of the times when it stood for the safety of the town of Canterbury. Views were also shown of the public park, the quaint old-fashioned shops, Mercury lane and the Pilgrim's Bottle, the latter an ancient inn at which the pilgrims going to worship at the shrines in the cathedral used to stop. Queen Elizabeth also had a chamber in this hotel. The Royal Museum and the library were also shown. In this museum is the chair of St. Augustine, who was the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

Mrs. Scovill dealt with the subject in a very able manner and the lecture was very much enjoyed.

## MONCTON NEWS

Moncton, Nov. 16.—The case against the management of the Grand Opera House, for obstructing sidewalks by sign boards, came up in the police court again this morning and a fine of \$10 was imposed. This is the culmination of a case which has caused considerable interest locally. It was thought by continued adjournments that the City Council would have the by-law amended, but Mr. Winter, getting tired of having the case adjourned, this morning asked the magistrate to accept his plea of guilty. The by-law will be rigidly enforced. The chief of police will issue orders for officers to notify merchants along Main street that placing signboards on the sidewalks will be considered illegal and offenders will be summoned to court.

The Maritime Express was one hour and twenty minutes late arriving at Moncton this morning, the delay being caused by a storm.

Last evening two men with caps on and handkerchiefs round their necks entered a local store and the clerk, thinking they were about to attempt a hold-up, started after them with a hatchet. The strangers left in a hurry. The police were notified but could get no trace of the intruders. A happy event took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Murray, Highland street, this morning, when their elder daughter, Mrs. A. Bernice, was united in marriage to Ora C. Matthews, son of S. B. Matthews, Moncton. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Donald MacGillivray, pastor of St. John's Presbyterian church.

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