

# The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 21, 1909.

### A MONTREAL VIEW.

Among the appropriate comments on the Sawdust wharf public sale, we have the following from the Montreal Gazette:

"The time at which the Government resolved to purchase for \$5,000 the \$700 pile of slabs and sawdust now known as the Richibucto wharf was as significant as the other circumstances of the deal. The ministers were being freely condemned during the election campaign of 1908 for permitting middlemen to make large profits by getting before them in purchasing land which was required for public purposes. There had been several notorious cases of this. There was the St. Boniface affair, in which a fortunate restaurateur from Saskatchewan suddenly took a notion to acquire at a low figure the land which the National Transcontinental Railway Commission was ready to pay a heavy price for in connection with its terminal projects near Winnipeg. There was the Moncton case, in which, in like manner, certain fortunate men bought at a moderate figure property that it was discovered was necessary for the extension of the Intercolonial yards and worth much more to the new buyers than to its original owners. There were the Nova Scotia camp and rifle range land purchases marked by the same peculiar circumstances, fortunate for the man who knew, but unfortunate for the national treasury. If the Government had any purpose of mending its ways it should have been shown at a time when it was apparently losing in prestige and respect because of its unbusinesslike way of doing business. It, however, had no intention of changing its methods. The Richibucto wharf purchase was an election time deal, and, judging by some of the evidence, was designed to influence certain interests in favor of the local candidate of the Government's party. The lesson of the situation is plainly plain. This sort of thing has become associated with the public idea of what may be expected from the present Government at Ottawa. It will continue as long as the present Government continues."

### THE DOMINIONS AND THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

It is kind of Earl Crewe to tell the people of England that Canadians, Australians, and South African people will have no respect for them if they do not rebuke the Lords for interfering with the budget. The truth is that the people of Canada, and other dominions, will respect the British electors most if they deal with the business they have in hand from their own point of view. Canadians are not all so proud of the methods of their own Government and Parliament, that they set themselves up to teach the people of Great Britain their duty at election time. The British people seem to know their duty quite well. If they do not like the conduct of an administration they turn it out. Questions of patronage, or hopes of large expenditure, do not enter into their campaigns so much as they do here. No government in Great Britain would start up a series of surveys of public works in the midst of an election campaign for the purpose of winning votes for a minister. There may be appeals to passion and prejudice, there is here. But there is not the same attempt to buy constituencies by all sorts of promises of local rewards.

If the electors of the British Islands are satisfied with the Government, its programme and its budget, they will probably elect a Liberal parliament. If they do not like the budget they will probably vote against its authors, and if they believe in tariff reform, they will vote for the party which favors tariff reform, rejecting the Lords have given them a chance to do so.

The people of the Dominions over the seas will certainly have no fault to find with the decision whatever it may be. Canadians, Australians and the other overseas Dominions are watching this contest with the deep interest of a friendly outside party. They will note the result with a certain concern, especially in the trade question, but not with the least spirit of censoriousness.

### NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE.

The New York Sun, with the help of some of its correspondents, has been trying to find out the secret of the effectiveness and popularity of the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police. It is found that state police in some parts of the union are well behaved and capable, but are not popular. In some other places they are neither useful nor popular, while nowhere in the United States is there a body of officers at all to be compared with the Mounted Police in the record they have made. A thousand of these Mounted Police have kept the peace for a third of a century over an area of a million and a half square miles of country, containing many tribes of Indians, and pioneer settlers from all parts of the world. The New York Sun says that in all this time over all this country there has never been a lynching.

One of the New York Sun's correspondent points out that when the Pennsylvania State Constabulary were sent to keep order at McKeesburg during recent labor troubles, some were killed, some were called murderers, some of them had done a thing but seek to protect life and property. "Why," asks this writer, "do the Canadian people look upon the Mounted Police as friends while on this side of the border the State Constabulary are looked upon as thugs?" His suggestion is that Canadians respect the law while the people of the United States dislike law and order.

Many influences have gone to make the Mounted Police the force for good that they are. They were organized early, and the original body must have been a splendid force. They were strong enough from

the first to vindicate the law against white offenders and Indians alike. The settlers naturally appreciated this protection, and gave the force their sympathy and support. There were no special inducements to join this force except a love for the life and the work, and so the body drew to it daring and resolute men. As they had large individual powers and responsibilities, it was necessary to have a corresponding standard of education, character and capacity. It was early found that while patronage, with all its evils might be endured elsewhere, it must be exercised with great restraint and care in appointments to this force, and matters of promotion were left much in the control of the staff of the force. For the rest good traditions and high standards once established, tended to perpetuate themselves. Everything tending to demoralize the force was resented by the corps itself. They have been and are a remarkably independent body of men, notwithstanding their good discipline. They are accustomed to go about singly or in couples on all sorts of difficult and hazardous expeditions, and thus have acquired self-reliance and an abiding sense of responsibility. Recruits, going in few at a time, soon acquire the spirit of the corps or else are dismissed as failures, so that a continuity of character is maintained.

Doubtless also it is a great help and encouragement to these men to know that the people believe in them, trust them, respect them, and always welcome them when they appear. One of the striking features in the life of the West is the manner in which this police force has come to be regarded as a valuable, honorable and respectable part of the community, and not in any sense as a necessary evil.

### NEW BRUNSWICK FRUIT IN LONDON.

The London Standard of Empire gives the following commendation of the New Brunswick fruit exhibit in the Horticultural Show at Westminster:

"The possibilities of fruit-growing in Canada are brought prominently before us in the annual exhibition of Colonial fruit, held last week by the Royal Horticultural Society, at Westminster. The British Columbia exhibit of fruit, especially of apples and pears, was again a revelation of symmetry of shape, beauty of color, and clean, healthy growth. The province has been awarded the society's gold medal. Among the new comers was New Brunswick, making a most creditable display of a great variety of apples, which says much for the capacities of this province for fruit-growing, in respect of which very little has been heard hitherto. The silver gilt Knightian medal was awarded for the collective exhibit and silver Banksian medal to three individual exhibitors. Nova Scotia and Ontario, hitherto the chief exporters of Canadian fruit to this country, were unrepresented on this occasion, and their absence is much to be regretted. We understand that the provinces are devoting their attention exclusively this year to exhibiting their fruit at the chief provincial centres, thus bringing their special attractions in this respect before a wide public."

### RATHER VINDICTIVE.

The campaign in Britain is not always conducted in that spirit of generosity which has been displayed in certain special instances. For example the attack of the Liberal Star on Mr. Chamberlain must have caused the Government leaders to shudder. Mr. Chamberlain has been a strong fighter in his day. Infirmary keeps him from the field where he would, if he had the power of five years ago, be the most conspicuous of the combatants. One letter he has written for publication since the contest began, and it was a moderate, grave and courteous expression, such as might be expected from one who is no longer in the fighting line, and who hardly expects to see another general election. Such a declaration as Mr. Chamberlain has made, and such counsel as he may be assumed to have given, might all for plain and strong criticism, but not exactly such personal reference as these that the Star makes:

"Chamberlain is still the chief enemy. The Tory party is led today by Giant Despair who sits in 'malignant impotence in his cave and rages against the strength of Liberalism. Yes, Chamberlain is the Giant Despair of revolution. He has flung the constitution 'into his last mad gamble. He has staked the House 'of Lords in his insatiable haste to snatch a desperate 'victory out of the teeth of the inexorable forces which arrayed against him. The whole Tory machine 'is controlled by the Highbury gambler who works in a 'cloud of secrecy."

This kind of attack is a great tribute to the stricken champion now watching the battle from his couch. He is still feared and still hated by those whom he has fought. When the Cid was dead his comrades placed him on his steed and led him against the foe, knowing the effect of his name and presence. The enemies of Mr. Chamberlain cannot forget or forgive the victor of other days. Those trades are not intended to cheer the heart of Mr. Chamberlain, but they will do him good at this time when he must be longing for the joy of battle.

### NICARAGUA.

Nicaragua has a new president, elected unanimously by congress, much applause following. Dr. Madriz has the support of ex-president Zelaya, and is not satisfactory to the leader of the revolution, or as we should call him, the leader of the opposition. For in these republics an opposition leader must be a revoler with an army about him. A peaceful opposition leader does not survive in such unhealthy climates.

While these things are happening a writer in a New York paper gives his version of the Zelaya trouble. His story is that a group of American capitalists got a concession to cut all the mahogany timber in Nicaragua, undertaking to build a railway and pay a stated price per log. The company operated successfully, but did not build the road. Zelaya waited and heard many excuses, and finally became peremptory. Still the cutting went on and no railway was built. At length the president stopped the cutting. Then the Company went to Washington and asked the United States government to interfere.

The Secretary of State placed the case in the hands of his legal advisors who found that Zelaya had done right. Thereupon the company went again to Zelaya and got him to pay them several hundred thousand dollars to give up their concession. They took the money, went back home, and have since done all they could to stir up and assist the trouble against Zelaya's government.

The Halifax Chronicle declares that the Liberal party is prepared to take up any challenge of the opposition against the navy policy of the Laurier Government. It is not distinctly stated that the Liberals include Mr. Emmerson in this defiance, but his recent interviews make it apply to him. The challenge must be open to the statesman who speaks of the proposed navy as a "tin pot" affair, or even as a "toy navy." These expressions are highly contemptuous.

Philip Smith, who is a little more than one hundred years old, is one of the inmates of the County House of Refuge at Rawdon, near Belleville. He was never married and is well and strong, though apparently not able to earn his living. Philip Smith has been a bachelor for more than a century, and finds that celibacy is conducive to long life, but does not insure wealth.

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### LATE SHIPPING

Canadian Ports.

Halifax, Dec. 20.—Ar'd: S.S. Albatross, Glenora from New York; sob Unity, Weston, S.S. Scotsman, McKinnon.  
Halifax, Dec. 19.—Ar'd: Strs Hesperian (Br.) from St. John, N. B., and sailed for Liverpool; Manchester Mariner (Br.) from Manchester; Amelia, (Br.) from St. John, N. B.

British Ports.  
Liverpool, Dec. 19.—Sld: Str Armanian for Boston.  
Glasgow, Dec. 19.—Sld: Str Ionian for Boston.  
Brow Head, Dec. 20.—Signalled: Str Rhein, from New York for Bremen.  
Leghorn, Dec. 19.—Ar'd: Str Italia, from New York.

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