

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1920.

A PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

There is a rumor abroad that Premier Foster is inclined, instead of holding by-elections in St. John and Carleton County, to call on a general Provincial election in the early future. Whether there is anything in the rumor or not, we of course are unable to say; but there are many reasons which would operate to make such a course advisable from the Government's point of view.

Ever since the Foster Government came into power they have been getting free spenders—we might, quite correctly, say, reckless spenders—whose one idea appears to have been to fling money right and left, utterly regardless of the fact that sooner or later a reckoning day would come when the cash to meet the expenditure would have to be found from some source or other. Their total deficits in the last three years have exceeded eight hundred thousand dollars, even with a greatly enhanced revenue. The Premier announced in the House during the recent session that he expects to recoup the deficit of last year, upwards of \$400,000, out of this year's revenue. He must know that it can't be done, and it is no use trying to fool the people by saying that it can. They know it can't, at least not under Foster methods.

However, they will very soon find that the Premier is making an effort to live up to his declaration. Quite a lot of new taxes have been imposed as a result of the Government's necessities condition, and the burden of these taxes will have to be carried by the people directly. For instance, prior to last session, all estates of deceased persons not exceeding \$50,000 in value paid no duty. That amount has now been cut down to \$25,000, so that the widow and orphans of a man dying worth \$26,000, who formerly would have paid nothing, will now have to contribute between three and four hundred dollars to help the Foster Government out of its difficulties. Then, again, the taxes on banks, insurance companies, express, telegraph and telephone companies, street railways and other corporations have been very materially increased, and it goes without saying that these companies will naturally increase their rates to the public to enable them to pay the additional impost, so that it is the people who are paying in the long run, not the companies. Then, again, any farmer or other landowner who wants to do a little trapping in the winter months will find that the license fee to permit him to do so has been doubled. It may not be very heavy at that, but the fact remains that it all means more for the people to pay. Owners of wild lands must pay now two cents per acre instead of one as heretofore, all to help pay for the Foster Government's extravagance. The wonderful Health Act takes another \$70,000 or \$80,000 out of the people's pockets. Under the old system, which everyone was satisfied with, the annual cost to the municipalities was from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year; now, under the new Act, the amount is increased to anywhere from \$4,000 to \$6,000. This has all to be raised by taxes on the people.

No demands have been made for any of these new taxes yet, so that the people have not "got wise" to the fact that they exist. Bearing this in mind, Premier Foster may feel that he has better ask the electorate for a renewal of their confidence before they find out what they have been let in for.

REPRESENTATION AT WASHINGTON.

That Canada should be directly represented at Washington is nothing more than the natural corollary of her development during the past few years. The existing condition of affairs is an anachronism which has too long been allowed to interfere with the march of progress. It will not make any difference in the relationship of the Dominion and Imperial Governments, any more than that it will relieve the latter of a certain amount of trouble. It is absurd that the business relations of Canada with a neighbor living alongside her, and with whom she does the greater part of her trade, should have to be regulated and arranged by an ambassador who has neither any special knowledge of what is required between the two countries, nor any particular aptitude for carrying out any arrangements that may be desired through. The close and increasing relations between this country and the United States require a more direct channel of communication between the two Governments than now exists. Many matters which may be regarded as of purely domestic concern arise between them, the adjustment of which can be more promptly and satisfactorily made by direct communication between Ottawa and Washington, even when a formal agreement may need the approval of the British Government. No British Ambassador can understand the Canadian viewpoint to quite the same degree as a representative of Canada, nor can the staff of a British Embassy make

questions touching Canadian interests with the alertness and extent of one from the Dominion. There is a field of usefulness to be occupied without conflict with Imperial interests, expedition to be made, a multitude of matters to be dealt with in the promotion of friendly relations and trade intercourse between Canada and the United States; and although there are some delicate points to be adjusted in determining the status of a Canadian representative at Washington, none are insuperable nor incapable of yielding to mutual understanding without impairing the Imperial power, or incurring the clash of interests. It will be an advantage in many ways when Canada has a representative at the American capital dealing directly with matters of purely Canadian concern, cutting out red tape, avoiding delay, and introducing direct action; and when the nice points of etiquette have been arranged we may expect announcement that a Canadian mission has been appointed to Washington.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND THE U. S. NAVY.

The various courses of action pursued by President Wilson in dealing with matters connected with the war, both before and after the United States entered upon active hostilities, gave abundant cause for surprise, but it may be doubted if anything he ever said or did could possibly show more clearly that he is an irresponsible theorist, possessed of a mind altogether unfitted to grasp much less deal with, the full responsibilities of such a situation as was confronting the world, than the cablegram sent by him to Admiral Sims, a copy of which was read before the Senate Committee yesterday. This despatch disclosed the fact that the President was not at all satisfied with the way the British Admiralty was directing the work of the British navy, and also indicated he could not understand why the naval experts of Great Britain were reluctant to allow the American naval experts in Washington to tell them just how things should be done. Mr. Wilson intimated that he considered the British naval men too prudent and expressed surprise that "the British Admiralty had failed to use Great Britain's great naval superiority effectively against the submarines."

The idea of any man in his right senses sitting quietly in his chair at Washington thinking that he knew better what line of conduct the British navy should pursue in the North Sea than did the experienced admirals on the spot, will not impress the average citizen with any great idea of the President's sagacity; nor will many people be inclined to think that Admiral Sims was in any better position to judge what would be the right course for the British Admiralty to pursue than either Admirals Jellicoe or Beatty.

It is pretty well recognized that the United States navy, with the exception of its destroyer fleet, was of very little practical use, owing to the state of unpreparedness that it had been allowed to get into under Secretary Daniels' administration. This has been shown by the testimony that Admiral Sims himself has given before the Senate Committee. This fact and Admiral Benson's rather ill-advised remark about being as willing to fight the British as the Germans have had to be explained, and the process of explaining has not been an easy one. Admiral Benson endeavors to get out of the difficulty by saying that a wrong interpretation was given to his remark. It is difficult to imagine any other interpretation than that given to it by Admiral Sims, to whom the statement was made. But if Admiral Benson under oath declares that he was merely endeavoring to impress his duties upon Admiral Sims as an admiral of the United States, there seems no option but to accept his word. Moreover, if upon the face of it Admiral Benson's words bear only one meaning, when the circumstances are remembered the words seem foolish. The United States had declared war upon Germany, and was quite unprepared, lacking allies, to cope with the German power. British co-operation with the United States was vital to the Americans. How, then, could President Wilson expect the British Admiralty to be guided by American advice any more than it could have been safely stated by an American chief admiral that the United States "would as soon fight the British as the Germans."

Councillor O'Brien is reported as declaring that the attitude of the Foster Government on the road question is "patry." It is perhaps a good thing that it is. Their expenditures on so-called "durable" roads last year amounted to \$1,158,067, and on "non-durable" or "unendurable"—which ever expression best fits them—roads, \$265,667, not far short of a million and a half altogether. If the Government spends that amount while maintaining a patry attitude, one dreads to think what they would spend if they took up a vigorous and aggressive one.

American canners are said to be not anticipating a very successful season in their industry. In all lines, except perhaps that of corn, it is predicted that the season's pack will be very much abbreviated. It is the prediction that one would expect. The main causes are the inability of the packers to obtain tin cans in sufficient quantity; the scarcity of labor and prospects of reduced production upon the farms, probably with reigning high prices for vegetables and fruits; the scarcity and high cost of sugar and the inability of the canners to sell futures at a profit which will cause them to reduce their hazard. They do not predict excessive prices for canned goods, but they do predict a short pack in nearly all lines, and unless past signs fall a short pack means high prices.

A bill providing for borrowing \$2,000,000 for highway construction in Nova Scotia is now before the House of Assembly of that province, and awaits third reading. It is just as well that our own Legislature progressed before Mr. Veniot got to hear of it. We are deep enough in debt as it is.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Watch on the Rhine.
 (Philadelphia North American.)
 There may be a question to whom the watch on the Rhine belongs, but France points out that she holds the ticket.

The Speed Limit.
 (Toronto Mail and Empire.)
 The legal speed limit of 20 miles an hour in the cities is too high. When 15 miles was the limit, few prosecutions occurred unless actual speed was more than 20 miles. Now about 25 miles seems to be the prosecution rate. When children and vehicles abound on the streets of the large cities, a maximum of 20 miles is sufficient for any careful motorist.

Chasing Profiters.
 (Sun and New York Herald.)
 England has had an experience like America's in chasing profitters. She let up 1,500 anti-profiters tribunals. Each heard an average of one case, and twenty-four convictions were obtained at an average cost of \$5,000 each. "And," says the indictment M. P., "the cost of living has gone up!" England will discover that profiteering, however evil it is of itself, is not so much the cause of excessive costs as a symptom of them. The real causes are government waste, individual extravagance and sloth and the exactions of organized workers.

At Cost of National Honor.
 (Brantford Expositor.)
 The wrongs of Ireland were just as real in 1919 when the British were escorting American troops of France, or fighting side by side with them against a common foe, as they are today, but no United States politician found it profitable at that time to raise the anti-British cry or to ponder to the voice of Irish and German Anglophiles. Today all the lessons which the great war ought to have taught are being disregarded and all the glittering prospects of an Anglo-American union for the maintenance of the world's peace and the suppression of Prussianism destroyed in a miserable attempt by a group of American politicians to place their party in power at the sacrifice of international courtesy and goodwill, and possibly of the world's peace. But what care these dastards? It is votes they are after and votes they are bound to get, even at the cost of national honor.

Helping the Farmers.
 Calgary, Alta., May 12.—Bishop Pihlman of the Anglican diocese of Calgary, earnestly asks the clergy of the diocese to use, in public worship, suitable prayers from the new Canadian Prayer Book for favorable weather during the season for the cultivation of the soil and for a bountiful harvest, and he invites all Americans to join him in praying for these blessings when they pray privately, or use family prayer.

To Feed Grasshoppers.
 Regina, Sask., May 12.—The officials of the provincial department of agriculture have prepared to feed the grasshoppers special tit-bits in the form of bran, arsenic and molasses, and have now on order, past in transit and some arrived, 1,000 tons of bran, two carloads of arsenic and seven carloads of molasses.

THE LAUGH LINE

Improved Mathematics.
 The teacher had been explaining fractions to her class. When she had discussed the subject at length, wishing to see how much light had been shed, she inquired:
 "Now, Bobby, which would you rather have, an apple or two halves?"
 "Two halves,"
 "Oh, Bobby," exclaimed the young woman, a little disappointed, "why would you prefer two halves?"
 "Because then I could see if it was bad inside,"—Queenslander (Brisbane, Australia).

A Chronic Buffer.
 "Hullo, Geordie," said a North-countryman on meeting a friend, "where has ye been this while back?"
 "Man," answered Geordie, "did ye no' know I was laid down w' that trouble on influenza?"
 "No, man, I didn't hear o't; and what kind o' trouble is it?"
 "Well, I can hardly explain," said Geordie, "but after ye're gettin' better ye feel like 'In fact, ye don't feel inclined to do anything.'"
 "Well, now, what d'ye think o't that? I've been troubled that way this last twenty years, and ne'er been able to find the name for it."—Answers.

The Usual Thing.
 "Of what use is this article?" asked the mystic customer.
 "I have no idea," replied the truthful salesman. "In fact, I doubt if it is of any use at all. We sell a great many of them for wedding presents."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I went to get pope Spring overcoat from the tailors where it was getting pressed, and Puda Simkine went with me, and on the way home with it Puda said, G, I bet that overcoat would be big enough for both of us, I bet.
 Giving me a leer, and I said, I tell you what we will do, when we get to my house lets both put the overcoat on at the same time as if we was the Siamese twins. Which we did on my front steps, me putting my arm throo one sleeve and Puda putting his arm throo the other sleeve and both of us putting our loose arms around each others waist inside the overcoat, and buttoning it down the middle, looking fanny as anything on account of the overcoat coming all the way down to our feet, and we made it up to both say the same thing like twins and then I rang the bell and ma opened the door, me and Puda saying, Siamese twins, hoola hoola.
 Well for mersy sake, said ma. And she started to laff like anything as if it was funny as everything and called pop, saying, Willyum, come down heer if you want a good laf.
 Never turn down a good laf, thats my motto, said pop. And he came out and saw his Spring overcoat buttoned around me and Puda and sticking out in different places where it wasnt meant to, and he said, Yee gods, my freshly pressed coat. Is this what Im supposed to laff at?
 Siamese twins, hoola hoola, said Puda.
 Siamese twins, hoola hoola, said Puda.
 Take it off, take it off at once, said pop not laffing yet. Wich we started to do, may saying, My goodness Willyum, is that your sents of humor?
 Is that your Spring overcoat, said pop. And he quick took it away from us and went back in the house, and me and Puda went and got in a game of cops and robbers.

Proud.

"Why don't you pay a visit to the old home town?"
 "I went away in a silver."
 "I'm waiting until I can go back in a tinouside"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Green Taxi Driver.

It is reported that Miss Isobel Elsom, the cinema star, tried to get knocked down by a taxi-car for the purpose of a film, but failed. We can only suppose that the driver must have been new to his job.—Punch.

Tobacco Habit Dangerous

says Doctor Connor, formerly of Johns Hopkins hospital. Thousands of men suffering from fatal diseases would be in perfect health today were it not for the deadly drug Nicotine. Stop the habit now before it's too late. It's a simple process to rid yourself of the tobacco habit in any form. Just go to any up-to-date drug store and get some Nicotol Tablets. Take them as directed and by the pernicious habit quickly vanishes. Druggists refund the money if they fail to be sure to read large interesting announcement by Doctor Connor soon to appear in this paper. It tells of the danger of nicotine poisoning and how to avoid it. In the meantime try Nicotol tablets; you will be surprised at the result.

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