

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1912.

THE HOME RULE QUESTION.

The political situation is growing interesting in the United Kingdom. Signs are not wanting that the Yorkshire Post was well informed when it foretold that a split in the Liberal party was imminent over Home Rule. Mr. Massingham, whose journal, the Nation, strongly supports the theories of Mr. Lloyd George, now admits that Home Rule was not placed sufficiently before the electorate in the last election. A referendum is the Massingham's solution of the difficulty. The Star, owned by Mr. Cahan, according to a recent despatch, enthusiastically endorses this suggestion. "The solidity of Protestant Ulster," says the Star, "is such that the Liberals ought to go any length short of betraying Home Rule to placate and conciliate it. We are confident that the verdict of the electors on the bill would be favorable and final."

The Unionist leaders have not been backward in pointing out this significant change of front by a section of the Government press clearly weakens the Government's position. Sir Edward Carson points out that such admissions render it criminal for the Government to smash the House of Commons by compelling the passage of the bill without a mandate. Mr. F. E. Smith expresses the opinion that the Home Rule Bill is dead. On the part of the Government these rumblings of discontent are ignored. Sir Rufus Isaacs, speaking at Reading on the Ulster demonstration last week, is quoted as follows: "I speak for the Government when I say that these incidents in Ulster will not turn us over our side. We are undismayed; we are undaunted; we are calm and patient, with such wisdom as we can bring to bear upon the question with which we have to deal. We shall carry the Home Rule Bill through the House of Commons, and I venture to predict that before the end of this year, the bill will emerge from the Commons after having passed its third reading."

Obviously the Government will leave no stone unturned to pass the bill through the House of Commons at the earliest opportunity. With the Nationalist vote controlling the situation and pledged to support the Government, only on that condition, they have no option. If the movement for a referendum grows, new difficulties may arise. How would the Nationalists take it? If the loss of nine bye-elections by Government candidates since the general election in December, 1910, is any indication of opposition to Home Rule in England and Scotland, they will certainly oppose it.

The signing of the Solemn Covenant that "Ulster will not have Home Rule" is having its effect. There is a curious feature about this policy of Passive Resistance. It was invented some years ago by the Non-conformists in the Old Country in disapproval of Mr. Balfour's Education Act. Mr. Asquith is, probably, one of the most prominent representatives of non-conformity in England. He is now confronted with Passive Resistance on a larger and more menacing scale which may end the life of his Government. He is getting a dose of his own medicine.

IN THE BALKANS.

Commenting upon the strained relations between Turkey and the neighboring countries, the Boston Transcript points out that for more than twenty years in the spring or fall the war cloud has rolled up dark and threatening over the Balkans. Some of the headlines of today referring to the present crisis, it says, are but paraphrases of those news editors wrote in the early nineties. Ordinarily the statesmen of the Balkan nations who are seeking to pare off some more of Turkey's possessions, prefer to mobilize in the spring, when the roads are good, rather than in the fall or at the approach of winter, with its promise of pass-blocking snows.

At present the departure from the old-time practice may have been induced by the difficulty Turkey has in making peace with Italy. Turkey seems unable either to win a victory or win a peace. Turkey's difficulties are always the opportunities chosen by the Balkan statesmen, and therefore there is hope that pressure without war will answer their purpose. Should war break out it need not be a little or localized contest. Some of the combatants have very respectable military establishments. Bulgaria is one of the most military countries in the world, for, while its population is less than 4,000,000, it can bring into the field 235,000 fairly trained soldiers. Serbia and Roumania have considerable armaments. Turkey when its blood is up becomes one great camp.

When neighboring nations have looked in one another's eyes meaningfully for a long time the fighting when it breaks out is apt to be fast and furious. As between Turkey and the Balkan countries there is also the imminent possibility of the Powers interfering or taking sides. This is the possibility that makes Berlin, Vienna, London and Paris nervous whenever the parties to the Balkan difficulties seem to be about to go beyond the pickering stage of controversy.

AN EFFECTIVE ANSWER TO FREE TRADE.

In a recent issue of the Grain Growers' Guide, one of the Western organs of Reciprocity, it asked in its columns the question: "Has Protection made you rich?" The query was addressed broadcast to the Canadian farmer. Mr. James Robertson of Bradwell, Saskatchewan, undertook to reply, and makes short work of Free Trade, from the standpoint of the Western farmer. He says:

"I am afraid you cannot convince those men who have farmed in England under Free Trade and are now farming in Canada under Protection that the former condition is better than the latter. If the English farmers had their wish Free Trade would be doomed to everlasting perdition, as they have been the greatest sufferers thereby, but unfortunately for them, they are in the minority in the population over there, and so do not carry much weight. Even as matters stand, England alone is in favor of Protection by a small majority, and it is as sure to come as Woman Suffrage is. In the meantime the Irish and Scottish vote, particularly the former, is holding Protection back. Many farmers in England have been practically ruined through Free Trade, and only the most progressive, energetic and needed ones have been able to hold their own with the help of greatly reduced rents. They are

mainly taxed, because taxes inevitably follow Free Trade."

Robertson contends that most men who have taken up land in Canada have done exceedingly well under a tariff. He is of the opinion that if Canadian farmers had lived in a Free Trade country they would never have been led astray by the one-sided arguments of theorists at the last Federal campaign. The Grain Growers' Guide, as the Calgary Herald remarks, must be astonished at the warmth of the opposition its question has stirred up. Apparently it had been living in a fool's paradise.

MEXICO CITY SOLVES THE PROBLEM.

According to a correspondent of the New York Evening Post, Mexico City is a community where the high cost of living does not exist. Despite political disturbances and real warfare in the Provinces, those in the capital of the Southern Republic seem to live enjoyably, at very small expense.

The best cuts of beef, according to this correspondent, retail in Mexico City for 8 and 9 cents a pound; bread is 2½ cents a loaf, flour 75 cents to \$1 for fifty pounds, cornmeal 1½ to 2 cents a pound. A sewing machine that sells in the United States for \$50 brings \$40; of the necessities of living, are higher than in the United States; a pair that would sell for \$4 costs there \$6 to \$7. Automobiles are perhaps 10 per cent. higher, but a taxi-cab ride anywhere in the city costs only 15 to 20 cents.

Best of all, from the housekeeper's point of view, is the low cost of servants. The best of them can be hired for \$2 to \$3 a month, and they remain in one family fifteen to twenty years. All are numbered and tagged by the government, so as to be traceable by the police.

This difference in the cost of living is attributed by the correspondent mainly to the municipal market. "The buyer deals directly with the producer, except in the few cases of coffee, sugar, salt, pepper and like staples." Climate perhaps has much to do with it, but does not complete the explanation of the difference, since the cost of living has risen greatly in nearly all countries in the last few years. The prospect is inviting, and yet it hardly portends a rush to Mexico.

THE POTATO MARKET.

In the vain hope of making a point for Reciprocity, Mr. Pugsley's organs, the Telegraph and the Times, are still engaged in a discreditable conspiracy to injure the farmers of this Province by false and misleading statements regarding the market price of potatoes. Reports are being published which have no foundation in fact. A fictitious interview is given prominence in the Telegraph purporting to give the opinions of Mr. B. F. Smith, one of the leading shippers in Carleton County. The interview never took place. These and other statements, without any foundation of truth, are being circulated broadcast.

On another page appear reports from The Standard's correspondents which show the disgraceful character of the campaign in which Mr. Pugsley's organs are engaged. Mr. Smith, who is justly indignant at being misrepresented, goes very fully into the situation and convicts the Telegraph on every argument it has attempted to make. A regrettable feature of the situation is that only injury to the farmers can result. No good purpose is to be served. Reciprocity was condemned by the people of Canada a year ago. Apart from the verdict of the Dominion in the United States the proposed Agreement is a dead issue.

ENTERPRISE.

An appendix to the special despatch reporting the banquet to Hon. J. D. Hazen at Sorel last evening runs as follows: "Where on earth did you come from. This is almost like St. John," said Mr. Hazen, as he greeted The Standard's representative. As The Standard man had travelled far through the Quebec woods to be present he felt the tribute was not ill-deserved. It may be explained that a member of The Standard's staff is spending his vacation in the Province of Quebec and made the journey to Sorel to report the banquet for the benefit of The Standard's readers.

Current Comment

Another Confederation. (Manitoba Free Press.)

The proposal of Sir Harry Johnston, the African explorer, who has interested himself greatly in the colored races, for a British Caribbean Confederation, or, to use the name which he prefers, a Union of British Tropical America, is an interesting one. As proposed, it would include both insular and continental elements. Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and the many other British islands thereabout, would form part of it, as also the British Honduras and Guiana. Of the total population of the proposed Confederation, 1,750,000, only 125,000 are whites. The islands in question, especially Jamaica lie right along the new ocean highway of world commerce that will be created by the opening of the Panama Canal.

Labrador as a Food Supply. (The London Advertiser.)

Labrador is a vast rendezvous that will supply the British Islands and Canada with a large proportion of their meat, is a hope expressed by Dr. Wilfrid T. Grenfell in an article in The Outlook. Dr. Grenfell states that herds experimented with in the last few years have proven beyond doubt that as a domestic animal that produces food of two kinds—milk and meat—and in addition is a transport factor to be reckoned with in its own habitat, the reindeer is certain to have considerable influence on the markets of the world.

A Profound Question. (Montreal Herald.)

They have the judiciary of the English-speaking world in the United States as well as in the British Empire, trying to answer the question "How rotten must a rotten egg be before it is too rotten to sell and is rotten enough to condemn and destroy?" And the world has gone for ages on the assumption that noses were given us to pass summary judgment on just such questions.

Strength of British Parties. (Ottawa Citizen.)

In these days of political crisis in Great Britain it will be timely to state the proportionate strength of the parties in Parliament: Liberals, 264; Labor, 41; Nationalists, 58; Conservatives, 250. The present union of the Liberals and Nationalists enables the Liberals to retain control.

How About the East? (Vancouver Province.)

There are one million five hundred thousand more women than men in England. The Mother Country is confronted with a condition not a theory, and the only remedy is for the girls to come to the Canadian West.

In the States. (Pork.)

"What is the next question to bring before the American people?" asks the politician. "They have had questions enough," replies a voter. "What they want now is a few answers."

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NO APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE YET
W. W. Hubbard Still Acting in That Capacity—Bond Issue For Valley Railway and Central Extension

Fredericton, Oct. 2.—The first bond guarantee on St. John Valley Railway is being sanctioned by the provincial government at its present session. The matter comes up in the form of a report from Provincial Engineer D. F. Maxwell, C. E., submitting the first progress estimates, and the first guarantee will be for \$100,000 to the St. John and Quebec Railway Company. The third estimate on the Gibson and Minto Railway has also been submitted to the government by Mr. Maxwell, and a further bond guarantee of \$50,000 will be sanctioned, making a total of \$150,000 for the Fredericton and Grand Lake Coal and Railway.

The government sessions opened yesterday afternoon and all the members were present except Hon. John E. Wilson, who arrived last evening from St. John, where he had remained yesterday to attend the wedding of his son. The session continued again last evening, and will be going on again this afternoon. Most of the members of the government will leave for the winter this evening or tomorrow, but Premier Fleming will remain here until Friday to take up departmental matters.

The next meeting of the government will be held at St. John next Wednesday, the 6th inst. Hon. John E. Wilson, who arrived last evening from St. John, where he had remained yesterday to attend the wedding of his son, will be present. The session will be held at St. John next Wednesday, the 6th inst. Hon. John E. Wilson, who arrived last evening from St. John, where he had remained yesterday to attend the wedding of his son, will be present.

A WONDERFUL CURE
An eminent scientist, the other day, gave his opinion that the most wonderful discovery of Zam-Buk just think! As soon as a single thin layer of Zam-Buk is applied to a wound of a sore, such injury is insured against blood poisoning! Not one species of microbe has been found that Zam-Buk does not kill.

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Only the other day, Mr. Marsh, of 101 Desorimier Ave., Montreal, called upon the Zam-Buk Company and told them that for over twenty-five years he had been a martyr to eczema. His hands were at one time so covered with sores that he had to sleep in a sack. Four years ago Zam-Buk was introduced to him, and in a few months it cured him. Today—over three years after his cure of a disease he had for twenty-five years—he is still cured, and has had no trace of any return of the ailment.

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TACTICS IN ELECTION FOR RUSSIAN DUMA ARE EXTRAORDINARY
California, R. W. Hortwig, Chicago, and Dr. E. E. Henderson, Chicago. They left late Sunday evening in company with guide John Connell, for the Tabernacle woods. Mr. Hortwig, who is a druggist in Chicago, has been in the woods here before and intends coming every year. He has hunted over all parts of the world, and at his home has some trophies which are reminiscent of some very exciting adventures. Mr. Hortwig is also a writer of no mean ability, and has written an account of his hunting experiences which make a pretty large book. He carries all his hunting paraphernalia in a specially constructed trunk, which has a place for even the smallest articles used in a camp.

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(Chatham Commercial, Oct. 1.)
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