

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.

THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY

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Freeman & Co., 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1919.

OUT IN THE COLD.

Now that the smoke of battle has partially cleared away, and leaders on both sides have had opportunity to express themselves with forcefulness and their accustomed verbosity, it is possible to hazard an opinion as to what political historians of New Brunswick will have to say regarding the very pretty pickle which Hon. W. E. Foster has brought the local branch of the Liberal party. When in 1917 the organization of Union Government was contemplated, an invitation was extended to the Liberals of Canada to participate on a fifty-fifty basis. Recognizing that the good of the nation should be placed before individual political opinions many of the leading men of the Liberal party accepted that invitation, with the result that Union, comprising the best thinking men of both great political groups was formed. There remained outside the fold two groups, one consisting of party men who consistently adhered to their life-long principles of Liberalism, and the other a spineless crowd too weak to oppose Union and yet refrain from active opposition. To this latter group Hon. W. E. Foster and a few of his friends belong. If ever opportunity was given a name for himself that opportunity came to Mr. Foster in 1917 when he was invited to endorse the principles of Union, and his failure to accept that invitation or to declare himself in opposition to the Union government stamped him as an underserver of the confidence of any loyal citizens. Those who, although misguided, had stability enough to adhere to the old-time Liberal policy and who fought Union to the end, merit the respect of their opponents for their allegiance to party principles, even in defiance of an overwhelming sentiment towards Unionism. These others, recognized everywhere as men of broader vision, who forsook party affiliations and joined in promoting the first truly national government this country has ever known, are the men who enabled Canada to carry on her share of the war and are rewarded by the realization of having performed their duty at the sacrifice of their personal sentiments. The third group represented here by Mr. Foster and his small personal following now safe for the condemnation of all. They had not sufficient backbone to oppose Union, they were too bitterly partisan to endorse it, and they were too cowardly to openly declare themselves the other way. From the staunch Liberal and broad-minded Unionists this group now finds itself cut off, ignored by the one and condemned by the other, yet imperiously demanding that it be recognized as the controlling force of reunited Liberalism.

While in Ottawa on Provincial business Mr. Foster devoted the greater part of his time to conferences with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Liberal leaders, and by so doing secured halfhearted recognition as party leader in this province. At subsequent sessions of the national committee his name was entered as a New Brunswick representative on that committee, this being done without the approval of the Liberal party which had formed the active opposition to the Union campaign. In the natural course of events instructions respecting the choice of representatives to the National Liberal convention in August were issued from Ottawa headquarters. Properly enough these instructions were sent to the chairman of the Liberal executive for St. John, Albert, who happens to be Mr. J. F. Belyea, an active worker in the fight, and to Dr. Emery and Dr. Broderick, the defeated Liberal candidates in the contest. This official recognition of their authority was accepted by them and in due time a call was published for the primary meetings of the electors in St. John-Albert for the purpose of choosing nominating delegates to select representatives to the National Convention. These meetings were held on Wednesday evening and were attended by numbers of those who regarded themselves as the only true Liberals in this constituency, the men who formed the opposition in 1917. When notice of these primaries was published, Mr. Foster believing himself slighted by the Liberal executive—as of course he was, and rightly so—endeavored by means of hasty telegrams to Ottawa to have himself exclusively designated as the one authorized to arrange such meetings, and entered his protest against any further proceedings of that nature. He succeeded in securing from the temporary leader, Mr. D. D. McKenzie, a pathetic supplication to the Liberal executive that Mr. Foster's pleadings be given consideration. This telegram from Mr. McKenzie is regarded by the Liberal executive as undesirable partiality and Mr. Foster's endeavors to secure personal recognition is condemned most bitterly by those whose work he is now attempting to hamper. His name was greeted on Thursday evening with jeers of contempt and his unwarranted interference was scathingly criticized. The

Liberal executive as it existed in 1917 proceeded with the selection of the nominating delegates on Wednesday evening, and on Thursday the meeting chosen, in regular conference named the St. John representatives to the National Liberal Convention. The two from the Albert section of this constituency are to be chosen later.

Hon. Mr. Foster adapts the words of the inimitable Harry Lauder, "Just let us sing a more about war, just let us sing of love." With this sentiment of misjudging public opinion which has characterized his whole career, the nominal leader of the Provincial Government hopes to destroy the influence of those who upheld old-time Liberalism in 1917, to depose from control the men who stood by their party in defiance of overwhelming sentiment and at the same time to enroll under his own banner the broader-minded members who believed in Union as a national duty. It is inconceivable that Mr. Foster should seriously anticipate success. If his attitude in the past had been such as to win the commendation or even the respect of any group there might be some reason today for this hope, but self-seeking partisanship which prevented support of Union, and cowardice which precluded not only active opposition but even a clear statement of his attitude, have deprived him of the respect of present and former members of the old-time Liberal party with the exception of the few whom he is prepared to regard as his personal following.

As the matter now stands, the recognized Liberal party of St. John-Albert has elected representatives to this constituency to the National Liberal Convention, despite the protest of Mr. Foster, and the lukewarm support which he has managed to secure from the temporary Federal leader, the support given only on Mr. Foster's urgent request and in the hope of restoring peace. The great body of Liberals, the type who place their duty to the country ahead of partisanship, realize the advantages of Union Government and are today more than ever convinced that the present form of administration is deserving of their continued endorsement. They are just as averse to following one like Mr. Foster who has shown himself lacking in stability as they are determined to remain apart from the other group from which they separated in 1917 and which still displays unwarranted partisanship.

UNION GOVERNMENT.

Whatever hopes Liberal members at Ottawa might have entertained of the disruption of Union Government have been rudely shattered by the unanimous decision of the first caucus held following the return of Premier Borden from overseas. That caucus, which was composed of practically all members of the Unionist party now in Ottawa, was marked by the absence of only that half dozen or so who have been lukewarm from the first and who have made no secret of their hostility to the administration. They are chiefly western Liberals who place partisan prejudice before the good of the country, and their defection from Union ranks has long ago been discounted. On the other hand the predicted defection of many other Liberal members of prominence has failed to materialize, and Union, despite the diversified sentiments of the men comprising it, faces the people stronger than ever and with every prospect of continued success. All this goes to show that underneath a political partisanship and personal sentiment there is to be found in the worthwhile man an appreciation of what is best and coupled with it a desire to do nothing which may hinder the progress of this country in matters of real importance. It is after all a really remarkable thing that men of the two great parties could come together, submerge their individual opinions, and, while respecting each other's views, work so harmoniously that after a two-year trial their enthusiasm in respect to Union is stronger and deeper than when in the heat of patriotic sentiment the project first appeared to them. The expression of confidence in the leadership of Sir Robert Borden is a notable tribute to a man who has brought this country through the most serious period in its history in a manner which has won the hearty commendation of other nations, and who because of his personal worth as much as because of his exceptional ability has been recognized as one of the greatest of those assembled in conference in Paris.

More shells were fired by the British army on the day the Hindenburg line was broken than were expended during the whole South African war. Yet in South Africa in 1900 there were times when considerable noise was made and a certain amount of damage done.

Mr. Hartley Dewar and Mr. William Proudfoot have changed places. The latter recently held the job of Liberal leader in Ontario, while

Mr. Dewar has been the party. Now Mr. Dewar takes command and Mr. Proudfoot composes the rank and file.

WHAT THEY SAY

The Model for Others.
London Advertiser—Hebrew rulers of old sat at the feet of Gamaliel, the wise, and there are some rulers at Ottawa who might with great advantage to themselves and Canada sit at the feet of Gounin, the wise and the winner.

Church Jesuitical.
Glasgow Herald—While the great bulk of the people of Scotland who think about the matter at all hope that this year's General Assembly will make a big stride towards the sunning of Presbyterianism in Scotland we need not be over-optimistic as to the final achievement. Will our prophets and teachers allow the petty distaste of the old-time rulers of the past to rob them of their opportunity?

Real Breeders of Radicalism.
Kingston Standard—The Patrons with their callousness and their indifference to the public and the interests of the public—the Patrons who put profits first and God and the Public last—are the real breeders of the Radicalism and Socialism that we now see in the land.

No Parallel.
Hamilton Herald—Toronto Methodist conference voted in favor of discontinue the bestowing of honorary titles by Methodist colleges except for scholarship or service. This seems to be on the same line as the action taken by Parliament, remarks the Toronto Star. Nonsense! Parliament voted against the bestowal of titles for scholarship or service or anything else.

Excess Profits Tax.
Toronto Star—A duty should not be so high as to allow of exorbitant profits. But it sometimes happens that excessive profits are made owing to some turn of fortune even under a moderate tariff. Let us then couple up with our tariff the excess profits tax and maintain it, as a means of automatically directing to the public the excess derived from protection.

Voluntary Daylight Saving.
New York World—In spite of the decision of Congress to strike from the statute books a measure adopted in time of war, there will be nothing to prevent individuals or large concerns from voluntarily continuing in force the daylight saving system during certain months of the year. Where they find it to their advantage. They will be free to govern themselves as they please. Expectancy of convenience will determine their choice.

Local conditions will vary. In many industries and occupations by general agreement a hour for starting the day's work will be advanced in the spring, while in others the practice of former years will be adhered to. The uniformity established by law will disappear, but beyond a doubt the effect of the experiment that has been tried will be seen in a growing disposition to save daylight from personal choice.

No Longer Their Quarrel.
San Francisco Chronicle—In the condition to which Germany has been reduced the European nations are entirely competent to control and govern Germany and need no help from us. Nor are we under any obligation to give assistance. We are not in alliance with any other nation. If Germany had not sunk our ships we should not have gone to war. Since we did enter the war for that cause we naturally associate ourselves with the other enemies of Germany. We much prefer to make a joint peace with them. As Germany no longer attacks our ships the country has no further cause of quarrel with that country. How Europe may be politically divided we do not care. We are making no indemnity or reparation except for our ships actually destroyed, and that we have probably got from the ships interned in this country.

A Good Irishman's Testimony.
Chicago Tribune—Probably nobody would deny that George Russell is a good an Irishman as Ryan or Dunne or Walsh. And Russell said it all two or three years ago in this paragraph: "Custom and the common sense of nations always will be behind the British government in refusing to allow Ireland to set herself up as an independent and hostile country. No nation, no matter how high a political morality it professes, could blame England."

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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and Puds Simkins took a walk to the park yesterday after school, and we passed a man setting on a bench wiping his perspiration with his handkerchief, being a grate big fat man with no vest, me saying to Puds, G. Puds, how would you like to be that fat?

How would you? sed Puds, and I sed, I wouldnt, and Puds sed, Me neither.
How much do you bet he ways I bet he ways 400 pounds, I sed.
Aw go on, I bet he ways 500 if he ways a fuch, did you notice his stummick? sed Puds, and I sed, Wat do you bet, I bet you a sent he only ways 400.

All rite, I bet you, lets go back and ask him, sed Puds.
Wich we went to do, and the man was still wiping his perspiration with his hat off, and me and Puds went up to him, me saying, Mister, would you mind setteling a argement?
This in the hotted day we've had in 5 years, I saw it in this afternoon's paper, O wy was I cersed with all this averdepoise, sed the fat man looking mad as anything.

All wat? sed Puds.
All this excess bagidge, sed the fat man, confound it, its hot, if I was a ordinary also man I wouldnt care, but I aint hit for any such weather as this—wats all this about setteling a argement?
Wich we and Puds looked at each other, and I sed, Ixcuse us a minit. And we went up the path a little ways, me whispering, Maybe he mite consider it too personal, maybe we better not ask him.

But we haff to ask him sumthing, we told him we was going to, to settle a argement, sed Puds and I sed, Lets ask him how many pints in a barril that sounds like a argement.
Wich we went back and did, Puds saying, The argement is how many pints in a barril, do you know mister? and the fat man sed, About one half as many as I've perspired today, O wy was I born fat? And me and Puds watched him wipe his perspiration a little while longer and then we kepp on going.

A BIT OF FUN

TO THE HUMMING BIRD.
Oh the light gossamer wing,
Swift as sunbeam's glancing ray,
Quaffing deep the honeyed spring,
Of each floweret by the way.

Filled with rapturous delight,
Glide for these gay Summer's hours,
Wafted on their radiant flight,
With the fragrance of sweet flowers.
Long ere chilly frost winds blow,
Or frail beauties fade and die,
And descends the feathery snow,
From a leaden Autumn sky.

To where Summer reigns serene,
Decked in emerald verdure bright,
Smiling each enchanting scene,
Thou wilt wing thy joyous flight.
Thus, when from this world of ours,
Fate life's hopes and joys away,
May we pass to brighter bowers,
Far beyond Death's rude eddies,
Peterboro, Ont.

A BIT OF VERSE

Time may heal our scars, but
wrinkles are quite another matter.

There's a good thing about a dog;
he does not pretend to be anything
else.

A vegetarian says that his good
health is the result of eating no meat
and chewing it well.

Yes, a woman should trust her husband,
but it is not always advisable to
let him know it.

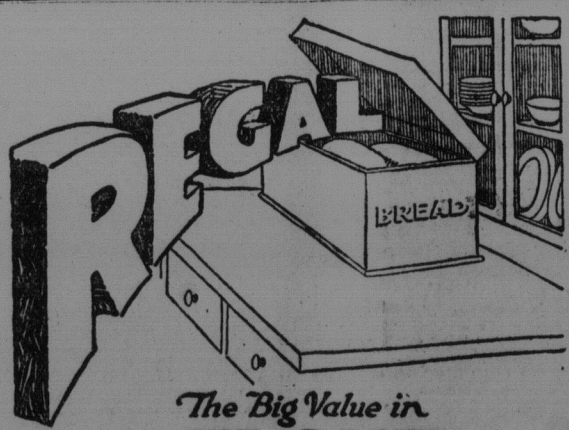
He—Do you think your father would
consent to our marriage?
She—He might. Father's very eccentric.

Clarice—Kitty married a man a good
deal older than she is, I hear.
Penelope—Older? Why, he's twice
her real age and three times the age
she says he is.

Teacher—Johnny, if four men are
working eleven hours a day
Modern Youth—A moment, miss.
None of those non-union problems,
please!

Quite Possible.
One day a celebrated K. C. was arguing
before a very fierce old judge, who
interrupted by pointing first to one
and then to the other of his ears, and
saying:
"You see this, Mr. X? Well, it just
grew in here and comes out there,"
and his lordship smiled with the hilarity
of a judge who thinks he has actually
said a good thing.

"I don't doubt it, my lord," replied
the K. C. "What is there to prevent
it?"



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MONTREAL

He Felt Guilty.
Mrs. Pickett—Sometimes I think that Darwin was right.
Mr. Pickett (stunned)—Great cats! What have I done now?

The Lawyer Approved.
A young gentleman appeared before a lawyer in a great state of excitement.
"Jones called me a liar, a scoundrel and a puppy. What shall I do about it? Would you advise me to fight for that?"

"By all means," answered the lawyer, "there is nothing nobler in this world, young man, than fighting for the truth."

Change Was Forced.
Of John Burroughs advises us that we must not always look for truth from the lips of a fisherman. In support, he cites this instance:
"Mistah Johnsing," asked old Ephraim, "what fob you call dat son of yohs Isaac Walton, when he was baptized George Washington?"

"Because, sah, dat rascal's reputation for veracity made dat change imperative."

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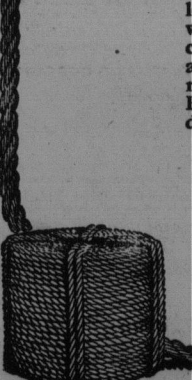
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