

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., 1920.

WHAT IS THE REASON?

At the present time the tax upon wild lands is one cent per acre when they are owned by residents of the province, and two cents when owned by an outsider. Because some American owners of wild lands in this province have "kicked" at this so-called discrimination, on the ground that in their country no such discrimination is made between residents and non-residents, Dr. Smith wants to make the people of New Brunswick pay twice as much as they otherwise would have to under this head. What is the object of this everlasting longing that this Government seems to be possessed with, to trundle to the whims and wishes of the people over the border? Why should the owners of wild lands whose permanent home is in this province be exploited, just to oblige Americans? The former have to pay all the other taxes which the province levies, which Americans don't. If non-residents of this province want to own lands in it, they do so to please themselves, and not because it obliges or accommodates our own people that they should do so. If Dr. Smith wants some extra revenue, why does he not say so out and out, and not put down his reason as being that Americans are not satisfied at present conditions. If they don't like paying the tax, they need not; they can sell the lands.

It is the same all through the piece. What is the idea of changing the rule of the road except that it is to make the tax on the same as obtains over the border, and Americans when they come here find it inconvenient to our rule. No one can give one single reason otherwise for making the change. Will some one say what advantage is gained by passing a law which will put the tax on the right, or moving him on the right instead of the left. Is it in any sense more convenient, or less dangerous? It is high time that Canadians get out of the habit of copying their neighbors across the border, or changing their ways to accommodate them to those of their neighbors. We don't find the Americans changing their ways and ideas to bring them into union with those of this country, and why should we change ours to oblige them? If they don't like our ways, they need not come here. When they do come, they come for their own pleasure or profit, and not for ours, and while here they should accommodate themselves to our laws and customs, the same as they expect any Canadian to do when he goes over there.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

The section of the Franchise Act relating to campaign fund contributions seems to be taken more seriously than its provisions warrant. The section prohibits any unincorporated company or association or any incorporated company or association—other than one incorporated for political purposes alone—contributing to the campaign funds of any candidate, political party, committee or association, or to any company incorporated for political purposes. This plainly exempts private contributions to party funds. The right of individuals to contribute for legitimate purposes cannot be challenged, the only check upon the practice, to ensure freedom from corruption, being publicity of all contributions. But there should be, and is, a maximum on the contribution of any individual, or even political association. If an individual wishes to contribute \$100,000, for instance, it may be presumed that his interest is not merely partisan, or national. A sum of that magnitude would be made available for campaign purposes only by a man who had large interests at stake in the fortunes of a candidate or party. Political parties exist on campaign funds, largely, because elections are expensive, and the majority of candidates have to obtain assistance from party funds, or personal subscriptions, to make up part of their outlay. If help were not available only wealthy men would be members of Parliament—which is obviously not in the public interest. The prohibition of contributions by commercial concerns is a legitimate effort to check the growth of a recognized evil, but in practice not too much is expected of it, because personal contributions are quite as effective, and corporations do not always pay out money directly.

Moderate Protection The Only Safe Policy.

In view of the fact that the Union Government, and still more the Conservative party, which is the major part of the Union Government, is identified with a protective tariff; and no other promising opening existing for attack upon Union Government, which the Ottawa Journal declares has been a better government than any other that Canada could have got, and is a much better one than any other she is likely to get, the fashion of parties of the old Liberal stripe, and of advocates of experiment in class rule like the U. F. O. or the

O. B. U., is to denounce the tariff more or less vaguely in the hope of making votes against the Government. Nevertheless, in order not to unduly alarm anybody, or lose any votes they can help, they also proclaim that they do not believe in free trade. The Toronto Globe, which may be accepted as a representative voice of Maclean's King Liberalism, says emphatically: "There is no doubt as to where Liberalism, and Agriculture, and Labor stand in relation to customs duties. All three have put themselves upon record by resolution. None of them proposes free trade."

Leaders of the Farmers' party are no less sullen than the Globe to escape the onus of being thought free traders. Mr. R. W. Burnaby, president of the U. F. O., in accepting a nomination Saturday for Parliament against Maclean's King, said he wanted to "rip the tariff right through the middle and have a good look at it," but he did not think it should be cut completely off. Finally, Labor at its recent convention declared for merely "the gradual elimination of import duties on necessities of life."

The position of the Toronto Globe, and of that section of the Liberal party which the Toronto Globe represents, is similar to the position of the Toronto Globe and the old Liberal party in 1893, when a platform was framed which carried Laurier into power in 1896. The platform denounced protection in order to extort votes against the Conservative Government of the day. But when the Liberal Government came to power, they carried on the protective tariff with little change. That the attack today upon the tariff by the Globe and the Liberal rump when in Opposition again is any more sincere than it was in 1893 is not probable. But it is more dangerous to this country; and same Canadians should be concerned. The difference between that day and the present day, the greater danger now than then, is that owing to the farmers' movement, the specious attacks upon Protection is various political or class quarters may result in a real upset of the protective tariff. And if they do, this country will see the worst days it has known since 1876.

The policy of the Union Government is plain and sensible. The policy is moderate protection, the programme is examination and revision of the tariff. While people in this country will do well to stand with the Union party in this matter.

According to the Bangor Commercial, there continues to be uncertainty about the price of sugar, which has risen 100 per cent, since the armistice in the immediate future. The word has been passed around that there is to be a continued increase, although it is difficult to discern any legitimate reason for such increase, unless it is that the sugar manufacturers and refiners can get it, and this may not be regarded as an entirely legitimate reason. But if one looks a considerable distance ahead into the future he may see better times coming. The prices that are being obtained for sugar is causing a movement for a vast increase in sugar production in Cuba. The area to be planted to sugar will be greatly increased and a great amount of modern machinery is being installed. This means that the sugar crop of Cuba will be much greater in the future and holds out the promise of lessened prices when the supply is more than adequate to the demand. But it does not give any particular encouragement to the housekeeper at the present.

According to the publications of the shoe trade prices of shoes are likely to take a drop before fall. It may be that the quality as well as the prices will drop, but it is said that the retailers are delaying their orders for fall delivery and that this fact is making an impression upon the manufacturers, who are turning to the making of cheaper shoes. The retailers appear to take the view that prices are bound to come down and do not propose to pay present-day prices, delaying their purchases in spite of the arguments of manufacturers that by such action they are taking a great chance of being left without adequate stocks.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

St. John, N. B., April 19, 1920.
 To the Editor of The Standard, N.B.
 Sir:—I was much interested in perusing the three letters in your issue of today, touching upon that written by His Lordship Bishop Richardson to the London Times. I am so much impressed by them that I propose sending a copy of your paper to the London Times. There is nothing like observing the old maxim, "speak the truth and let the truth be known."

They say that politics make strange bed fellows, but Prohibition has made strange.

Your correspondent "Inquirer" propounds some pertinent questions; may I ask this—Did His Lordship observe the following paragraph which appeared in the St. John Globe of the 8th inst., namely: "Summing up the morning's business in the Court the Magistrate reiterated that St. John was going to the devil and that no less than twelve had to be let go during the week as there were not beds enough in the county gaol house to accommodate the prisoners."

Yours truly,
 ANGLICANUS.
 St. John, N. B., April 19, 1920.
 The Editor The Daily Standard:
 Dear Sir:—In reading over the copy of my letter to your paper with regard to the Bishop's letter to the London Times, I notice that there is an error in connection with the third extract from the papers which I have quoted.

The letter says this extract is copied from the Fredericton Gleaner. This is an error on my part. It is an extract from the St. John Standard and applies to the St. John County Jail and not to the Jail in Fredericton. I trust that you will inform the readers of your paper of the mistake and oblige.

SKEPTIC.
 St. John, N. B., April 19, 1920.
 Editor of The Standard:
 Dear Sir:—As the position of the people of the Kingston Peninsula has been brought up in the Legislature by Mr. J. A. Murray and Mr. H. V. Dickson, I thought it was time some one spoke for the lower end. (Westfield No. 2 and Kingston No. 2.) One part of this section of the peninsula is within one mile of the city limits at Sandy Pt. (see map), yet our mail for some time has been coming via Hamilton, a distance of about fifty miles.

Some, including Mr. Dickson, think that the building of the Perry Point Bridge would solve all our difficulties. Such is not the case. People of Baywater and Lands End would have to drive twenty miles away from the city to get to the bridge and it would be ten or fifteen miles from market. Nearly twice as far as the Perry Pt. and Kingston people are from the Hamilton bridge.

The bridge should be built at the lower end, then no one would have to drive away from the city for miles before they could get started towards it. Failing this, a ferry boat that would run through ice as proposed by Mr. E. S. Gower in 1912, would be a better solution than the bridge. People who would be blocked by ice while they were in sight, would be better than conditions now, when people have to depend on row boats or tug boats, in cases of emergency such as sick-

A Jar That Jarred.
 Biffkins looked grim. He shuddered every now and then, and covered his eyes with his hands, as though hurt.

"What's up with you?" asked some one.
 "My wife got a terrible jar at a sale yesterday," said Biffkins and his lip trembled.
 "Woman is certainly becoming very athletic," said the observant man at Palm Beach. "Why, I could pick out several good football teams."

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.
 Epiphany. Sid Hunt and Paul Simkins was out wheeling their baby chaises in their baby carriages last Friday because they had to, and Sid Hunt dared Paul Simkins to race him from the telegraph pole to the corner to see which baby carriage would get there first, and they started to race and Sid Hunt was way ahead when his mother looked out the window and saw him and made catch a noise yelling for him to stop that she made Sid toss the race on account of nervousness, and he claimed it was a foul.

Latest Fashion Notes. Percy Weaver has a pair of new patent leather shoes with such long narrow toes it's a wonder they won't start his toes and maybe they do.
 Pome by Jimmy Martin.
 I haven't missed much.
 I have a cousin named Edgar.
 But I've never saw his face.
 Because he's got so many truckles.
 They take up all the space.

Interesting Facts About Interesting People. Once Sam Cross built 3 mounds worth of one for a cent lemming sticks, and on the way home he discovered the lady had put in 4 lemming sticks by mistake, so he threw one of them out in the street and when his gilly consents were off and he went back to look for it, he wasnt there.

Lost and Found. Found—a cigar box with 50 cigarettes in. Reddy Merly will return them to you free if you can prove they are yours by describing every marble. Otherwise the owner will have to pay 6 cents to get them back.

from among these lovely girls here, judging that is to say—
 An observant man laughed roughly.
 "Judging from the number of splendid backs and halfbacks on 'em."

The Joys of Labor.
 Lost and Found. Found—two men carrying that dust-bin.
 "Two professors earning an extra coin or two."
 "And who is the fellow in the fur coat?"
 "Oh, that's the dustman. He employs them."—Karlsson (Christiansburg).

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

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OBITUARY.

Mrs. John C. Fowler.
 Central Norton, April 19—The death occurred here today of Mrs. John C. Fowler, at the age of eighty-one years after a lengthy illness from heart

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