

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1916.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H.M. The King TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE TEED REPORT.

The report of Commissioner M. G. Teed on the investigation into certain charges preferred against Harry M. Blair, secretary of the department of public works, at Fredericton, was presented to a caucus of supporters of the Provincial Government on Wednesday evening. Last evening the Government adopted an order-in-council removing Mr. Blair from the public service. The action was in complete accordance with the finding of the commissioner.

Several charges had been preferred against Mr. Blair. Some of them were not proven, but the fact that he had accepted from a company holding a contract with the Provincial Government certain shares of stock in the company concerned was deemed an offence sufficiently grave to cause him to forfeit his position.

Mr. Blair was thoroughly qualified, and, in many ways, a most competent official. The finding of Commissioner Teed is the first black mark on a long career in the public service, and there will be much regret among Mr. Blair's friends that his indiscretion has thus brought about his fall.

In considering the finding of the Commissioner it should be remembered that the inquiry was initiated by the Government as soon as they were satisfied that there were reasons for a suspicion of irregularity in the public works department. When it was found that there was sufficient cause for action the Government acted properly, and for this they merit the hearty commendation of the people of the province.

There have been other charges of irregularity investigated by commissions appointed by the Government. The allegations against A. J. H. Stewart and Mr. Robichaud were fully proved, and although action was delayed because of Premier Clarke's illness, yet there was no disposition to shield a guilty person or to keep back one fact relevant to the subject under discussion. The doors were thrown wide open for the production of all evidence and when the case was closed the finding was in accordance with the facts. Mr. Stewart has resigned, but even before he resigned he had ceased to be regarded as a supporter of the Government. His resignation followed as a matter of course.

In the case of Mr. Robichaud, while there was evidence to show that he had acted in a high handed manner, and without authority, yet there was no evidence of graft or criminality, and nothing on which to base a demand for his resignation. Had Mr. Robichaud been guilty the Government would not have attempted to shield him.

While it is most regrettable that there should be the slightest irregularity in any provincial department, or on the part of any public man, be he member of parliament or departmental official, yet there can be nothing but commendation for the determination of the Government that there shall not be the slightest suspicion of wrong doing on the part of any one. In this respect the present Government of New Brunswick, and the present Government of the Dominion of Canada have presented a striking contrast to the conditions which obtained under former administrations.

Under the old rule at Fredericton, when Messrs. Tweedie, Pugsley, Robinson and others were in their prime, the public funds were plundered and looted to such an extent that when Hon. J. D. Hazen assumed the reins of power he found the provincial treasury practically empty and the provincial credit sadly impaired. When the party led by Mr. Hazen was in opposition they pledged themselves to a consistently honest administration of public affairs, and that pledge has been kept. Wrong doing wherever it has been found has been punished, and honest government has so vastly improved the financial position of the province that today New Brunswick's credit is as high as that of any other province in Canada.

When the Pugsley-Robinson government was in power the road moneys, bridge moneys and other funds of the province were squandered and pilloined. But years before that time, Hon. Mr. Hazen, then leader of the opposition, demanded an enquiry into expenditures on certain bridges. The government of that day grudgingly

granted a House Committee, a prominent member of which was Frank H. Carvell, now representing the county of Carleton in the Dominion Parliament. That House Committee speedily developed into a whitewashing expedition. The day of whitewashing expeditions passed with the retirement from office of the Pugsley-Robinson administration and it will never return. The action of the Government in the case of Commissioner Teed's report is sufficient evidence of a determination to see to it that the affairs of this province are wisely and honestly administered, not only by the members of the Government and their supporters, but by every official in the provincial service.

MR. BRODER'S VOTE AND VOICE.

The Times has complained that The Standard has paid no attention to the action of Andrew Broder in supporting the Laurier motion to have the fuse charges probed by a committee of the House instead of by Royal Commission. We realize that, in its manifold activities of boosting the leaderless provincial opposition, defending commission government, attempting to influence its readers to vote against the proposal for the Valley Railway by the west bank route, and abusing the Conservative administration at Ottawa, and the Conservative party all over the country, the Times has been busy, and may not have had opportunity to read The Standard as carefully as good judgment would direct. Consequently it is quite likely that the observations on Mr. Broder, made by this journal of the home and freddie, have escaped the attention of our contemporary. It has doubtless also escaped the Times that in his statement to the House of Commons in connection with the Laurier motion, Mr. Broder said: "While I have no fault to find with the fact that the judges are to be appointed, and while I am satisfied that they are as competent, as thorough and better judges of an investigation than any committee that this House could appoint, yet the people cannot distinguish between these fine technicalities."

In this, Mr. Broder admits that the Royal Commission would be in a position to conduct a more thorough investigation than any House committee. In that he is correct. It is also quite true that in such an investigation opposition scandal-mongers would not be permitted to take charge of the proceedings for political purposes. That is why the better thinking people of Canada favor the idea of a Royal Commission while the Liberal oppositionists are Parliamentary committee.

It may be, as Mr. Broder says, that the people cannot distinguish between the "fine technicalities" that may or may not exist as between a Royal Commission and a Parliamentary committee, but from his own words it is evident that the veteran member for Dundas has distinguished, and, because of that, admits the superiority of Sir Robert Borden's plan. Thus his voice is raised in support of the policy of his own party while he votes against it. If his statement is true that the ignorant people cannot distinguish between the "fine technicalities" of a Parliamentary committee or a Royal Commission, how much more difficult will it be for them to distinguish between the "fine technicalities" of Mr. Broder's opinion as expressed by his voice and that conveyed by his vote?

The Standard has previously remarked that Mr. Broder was an honest man, but that if he remained permanently in affiliation with the Kyles and the Carvells of the opposition party he would be very very lone some. It is very evident that already he has fallen before evil counselors and, while personally of the belief that Sir Robert Borden has chosen the better plan of investigating the fuse charges, has been induced to vote against it. We leave it to the Times to explain how it happens that this singularly honest man should permit himself to be placed in such an anomalous position. The same authority might also tell us which we are to believe, Mr. Broder's voice or his vote.

ARRIVED WITH COAL.

The schooners Mayflower and Mary A. Hall arrived in port yesterday from New York with coal.

REV. MR. FRANKLIN WRITES CONCERNING "BIRTH OF A NATION"

St. John, N. B., April 13, 1916.
To the Editor of The Standard:

The "Birth of a Nation" would have been of infinite worth, artistically, historically, and educationally, were the ridicule of the colored man eliminated; but how could it be different when the author of "The Clansman," Thomas Dixon, who represents the evil head of the fallen angels, fathered the thought that generated the movement that led to the so-called masterpiece of Mr. Griffiths' soundreelized dramatized photoplay.

The "Globe" prints an article in which it speaks of one, Rev. Mr. Stewart, endorsing the play. I have learned that this colored man to whom the Globe refers is a West Indian or Bermudian who, himself, has not witnessed the horrors of race prejudice such as the American colored people have and are experiencing today.

I was born in Georgia, the meaneast state south of the Mason and Dixon's line. I know of the villainy of the south and the mobs that formed the Ku Klux Klan. I saw Thomas Dixon and heard him speak, he is a human devil of the erudite category.

The colored man occupied positions from the notary public to governor and legislator and senatorial as well as collector of customs, registry of the treasury, internal revenue, collector, etc., but for racial prejudice he would have been a potent factor in the political development of America.

If the world will give the colored man an equal chance commercially, industrially, educationally and politically, you will find a new world, a new negro, and new things under the sun. A few things accomplished by colored people under these most crucial conditions of prejudice, they have mastered jurisprudence, the materia medica, science, philosophy, history, archaeology, botany, geometry, Greek, trigonometry and others. The Greek text book studied by white students in Harvard was written by a colored man of the A. M. E. church, Prof. Scarborough of Wilberforce, Ohio. Inventions, photography and other accomplishments of note and yet in the face of that which has been demonstrated, Thomas Dixon by writing "The Clansman" would lead the White North and Canada as well as believe that the colored people who at one time controlled the state legislature in South Carolina were incompetent and thus incapable for leadership. If you will read with unbiased minds and study the history of the people of South Carolina, many of whom came from British and French possessions where colored people dominated, the West Indies and Haiti. These men were trained. Be it remembered the French and English have always been kind to the colored people, until they came in contact with the conditions and with Southerners or Americans, and especially those south of the Mason and Dixon line, who when they move carry their customs, habits and mannerisms with them. These men of South Carolina were educated and accustomed to governmental affairs and in this same scene that they purpose to show the incapacity of Negro leadership. They give a picture in the capitol with legislators drinking during the hours of assembly, but when it comes to run drinking, it is not confined to the colored race. Nine cases out of ten the white distills, purchases license with which to sell it, and these same men, had they been drunkards, purchased this poison from the white men. We would have no colored whisky drinkers in many parts of the world, if the white man quit making and selling it.

The second picture to which we object is the one in which a pretty white girl is chased by the most homely colored man, and from whom she escapes by dashing herself to death over a precipice. I admit that in the South especially, illiterate, idiotic and imbeciles have been guilty of crimes that would be unpardonable in sane, discreet and educated men, but fortunately the people of the latter class never fall victims to this beastly sensual passion. The colored men who have been really guilty of crimes to which I refer have mistaken kindness for affection, which is a sad mistake.



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Little Benny's Note Book

Our class had to write a composition on the bad effects of tobacco, this being mine.

The bad effects of tobacco, and why.
To look at tobacco in cigarettes, cigars and gaudies, you would never think it wants used to be an innocent plant, but it did, proving plants never no wats going to happen to them any more than people do, if as much.

Air was meant to breathe, and smook wassent meant for anything, so if we breathe smook all the time insted of air, the lungs soon get disktined and wont breathe anything, and wen the lungs stop breathing, it jenerally has a bad effect on the hart.

Cigarettes are the worst, because there is so many of them. People who only smook one cigaret a day will live to be old ages without anything hapening to them, but there aint any such people. The reason so many disktined are smoked is because all you haft to do is take the box out of your pocket and pull out a cigaret, wite on the uthar hand, if you smook a pipe, you first haft to go home and get it and then put the tobacco in, and on the uthar hand, if you smook segars, you first haft to buy the segar.

Cigarettes make the skin look yello and the face look tuff wite your smooking them.
It is espeshilly bad for a lady's health to smook cigarettes in public. Besides being harmful to the health, tobacco is expensive, and if men saved 50 cents every week insted of buying tobacco with it, in 10 weeks they wood have 5 dollars.

The white side of a black subject was demonstrated as was in Tennessee, the home of Andrew Johnson, called in this play the "Stone Man." In the month of February a colored man was hunted down because of an alleged assault. The mob found in a barn the supposed culprit. They built fires around the place and with loaded guns came in from all sides and caught the supposed rapist and found the face black but the torn shirt revealed the racial identity, a white man, who after the face was washed turned out to be the uncle of the girl outraged.

I trust that the censors will not permit the play at all; but if they allow the exhibition, it is our prayer that anything that reflects upon the colored people or that carries one iota of venom with which to poison the people with whom we found ourselves, and by the side of whom we are to solve our problems, through the assistance of those who are in governmental authority the remaining years of our earthly existence will be eliminated.

Fraternally,
J. H. H. FRANKLIN,
Minister of St. Phillips' church, city.

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whose decision must be considered as final.

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For Boys and Girls
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Age..... Birthday.....

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