

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1920.

## PREMIER FOSTER'S SPEECH.

We must admit that Premier Foster is an able man in some ways that we thought. We did not think that he, or any other man in the House at the present time, with perhaps the exception of Mr. Tweeddale, could possibly manage to talk so long, and at the same time succeed in saying so little, as the Premier showed himself able to do in his effort yesterday afternoon.

In his range of subjects, Mr. Foster appears to have travelled from Dan even to Beersheba. Apparently he and his secretary must have been engaged all Saturday, Sunday and Monday toombing the Provincial archives for subjects upon which to touch, with a grim determination that nothing should be left out, and they appear to have succeeded. No other explanation for the long harangue can be found.

Among such a plethora of different matters, it is somewhat difficult to know which the Premier considered the most important. He made so many startling assertions regarding each that the average reader of the report of his remarks is apt to get bewildered when he tries to sort them out. One of the most extraordinary of them, however, is the statement that if the Government cannot keep the ordinary expenditures within ordinary revenue, it ought to be put out. Evidently the Premier is anxious to turn the people with an excuse to him down. He himself has shown no ability to do the thing he says ought to be done, so far.

On his own admission his Government has rolled up in the three years of its existence a deficit of some \$800,000 odd. This has been caused by expending more than their income—and yet he still stands up and says that it is good business to go into debt, if done in the public interests. Unless the Premier has in contemplation some new and profitable source of revenue, it is very difficult to see just where he is going to meet his current expenditures from, to say nothing of attempting to wipe out the existing deficit out of future revenue. He and his colleagues have shown no capacity for being able to live within their income so far, and there is no reason to suppose they have alighted in any specific for enabling them to do so in the future.

The Premier paid a well-deserved tribute to the boys who had volunteered their services to their King and Country, but he omitted to say that he privately thought a good deal more of those who stayed at home and "slacked," willing to let others do more pluck and red blood in their veins, do their fighting for them. It is to the victors of this class that Mr. Foster awards the spoils.

The Premier also referred somewhat hoastfully to the wonderful results of setting aside the automobile tax to provide interest and sinking funds for permanent roads. No one knows better than the Premier that this is not being done—only a portion of these taxes is being set aside; the balance, almost the greater part of the tax, is being used in ordinary revenue. What not be honest and say so? That is not what was in the mind of the Legislature at all when the Act was passed.

To deal fully and properly with the other matters which are contained in the speech and require correction would need a whole issue, which we cannot afford just at present.

## THE FARMERS' PARLIAMENT.

The annual meeting of the N. B. Farmers' and Dairyman's Association is now in full swing at Fredericton, and the programme of its proceedings appears to be of a very broad and comprehensive nature. The various speakers who are expected to occupy the time of the meeting are all of them experts in their various lines, and are able to impart a good deal of sound and useful information which must inevitably do a world of good.

In these days, when the furnishing of the necessities of everyday life calls for so much greater effort on the part of the agricultural community, it is of the utmost importance that the farmer should be up-to-date in his methods if he is to get the best results. There are no better means of obtaining instruction in regard to these methods than are provided at these annual conventions, and it is a gratifying sign of the times and that our farmers are fully alive to the situation, to find these conventions so largely attended.

The farmer, of course, is not a business man in the ordinary acceptance of the term, but the success of his calling is intimately wrapped up in and largely controlled by the same conditions that confront ordinary business enterprises. If trade is good, the farmer benefits equally with the manufacturer and merchant; if it is bad, they have to suffer, he must suffer likewise. There are influences at work in an effort to stir up a feeling among the farmers that the interests of the merchant and manufacturer are at variance with their own,

and that therefore the farming element should oppose these interests. No greater misrepresentation could possibly be imagined. The prosperity of the country as a whole depends entirely upon the prosperity of the various industries which are maintained in it; and if industrial life is handicapped or burdened by any particular conditions, the result will very quickly be reflected in agricultural life. The manufacturer, the merchant and the farmer must go along hand-in-hand; each is entirely dependent upon the other; and any movement which is designed to injure any one should be fought most vigorously by the others, in their own interests just as much as in the interests of the particular class attacked. This is not a matter of politics, it is one purely of self-preservation.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Today is the feast of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, whose memory remains among the natives of that "distressed country" as green as the grass which covers its hills and dales.

St. Patrick, as far as we have been able to ascertain, had only one fault laid to his charge. He is said to be to blame for the perilous plight of the men who must take their way warily through leap year, with an eye always out for the maiden with the gleam of the hennins in her glance and a proposal trembling on the tip of her tongue.

In the days before the church ordained that celibacy should be the rule for the clergy and nuns, St. Patrick was walking on the shores of Lough Neagh, so tradition says. There St. Bridget came to him in tears beseeching St. Patrick to grant the women the right to propose in every seventh year, but at last was forced to grant them the privilege of proposing every leap year, the penalty imposed on the man who refused the offer being the gift of a silk dress and a consolatory kiss.

It does not lie in the mouth of The Telegraph to criticize, or repeat the criticisms of others, regarding the adoption by any other newspaper of all justifiable methods of business expansion. The Standard, for instance, has never been bought and paid for out of the proceeds of a dredging contract of such a peculiar character that an investigation into it took up several days of the time of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons. Nor have any of its owners ever assisted in the collection of a boodle fund, or been instrumental in getting a five-cent per yard rake-off on any dredging transaction, at the expense of the public treasury. Any newspaper which undertakes to criticize its fellows should take care to see that its own editors are quite clean before starting in.

The Telegraph expresses the opinion that the lumbermen prefer the present Government's policy to that of the old regime, "when holders of the Crown Land leases were obliged to contribute to provide campaign funds for the administration and its favorites." Our contemporary doubtless recollects this incident so well on account of the fact that its principal owner, Mr. John E. Moore, took one of the leading parts in it. He, it will be remembered, sat in his office and took charge of the "goods" as they were brought in—allowed his office to be used as a general clearing house in fact—endorsed the cheques and drafts and paid over the cash, and generally acted as if he were manager of the whole affair.

The Secretary of the United States Navy says that the United States must enter the League of Nations or else have the most powerful navy in the world. The man who now is doing more than anything else to block the entrance of the United States into the League of Nations is President Wilson, pursuing to the last step his bitter refusal to yield an inch to anyone, on any subject.

The Toronto Globe asserts that its editorial conscience cannot be bought. Of course not; no one can sell anything he does not possess.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Looking for Trouble.  
 (Regist.)  
 Secretary Daniels says the United States must have "incomparably the biggest navy in the world." One would think he was getting enough criticism from the present one.

The Cardinal's Rashness.  
 (Hamilton Herald.)  
 There, there, ladies, don't take offence at the declaration of Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston, that the husband should exercise authority as the natural head of the family. His eminence, being a bachelor, has not practical experience in that sort of thing. He only theorizes. He can't know.

Unseen Lights.  
 (Lethbridge Herald.)  
 Bradstreet is quoted as authority for the statement that in the United States, in the past year, \$5 per cent.

of the commercial failures were due to lack of advertising. This goes to prove the truth of the saying that it does not do to hide your light under a bushel.

(A Contrast.)  
 (Vancouver Sun.)  
 The contrast between the present talk of the Allies about getting Germany on her feet and the former wild, pre-election promises of indemnities to be collected is very striking. The fact is that Europe is in danger of punishing itself more than the Germans, however richly they may deserve punishment.

## Everything Going Up.

(Kingston Whig.)  
 By increasing its price to three cents per copy and five dollars a year by mail, the Toronto Globe has adopted a course that every daily newspaper will probably have to take before long. Costs have so enormously increased during the past few years that many newspaper publishers are almost at their wits' end. And it is well to remember that even at five dollars a year, or even ten dollars a year, a newspaper is the cheapest thing the public buys, considering the service rendered, the information imparted and the education afforded. The difficulty is that newspapers on this continent have always been too cheap. A contemporary, says the Quebec Herald, points out that the New York Times in 1919 is nine dollars per year and the Globe gives the service in this country comparable to that performed by the Times across the border. The Toronto paper is worth more than the price it asks, and so are all the newspapers that have survived the ordeal so far, and they will doubtless have little trouble in getting the increased price necessary to continue good service, for the public is not unreasonable when it appreciates the facts.

## A BIT OF VERSE

THE FOUR-LEAVED SHAMROCK.  
 I'll seek a four-leaved shamrock in all the fairy dells,  
 And if I find the charmed leaves, oh! how I'll weave my spells!  
 I would not waste my magic mite on diamond, pearl, or gold;  
 For treasure treads the weary sense—such triumph is but cold;  
 But I would wear my spell in—  
 In casting bliss around—  
 Oh, not a tear nor aching heart, should in the world be found!

To worth I would give honor—I'd dry the mourner's tears,  
 And to the pallid lip recall the smile of happier years,  
 And hearts that have been long estranged, and friends that had grown cold,  
 Should meet again—like parted Oh! thus I'd play the enchantor's part,  
 And scatter bliss around;  
 And not a tear, nor aching heart, should in the world be found!

—Samuel Lover.

## A BIT OF FUN

A Definition.  
 "What is intuition, pa?"  
 "Guessing right the first time."

Just at the Limit.  
 Her Husband—Do you mean to say you're actually going to the new evening gown? Why, they pitched at a vaudeville woman for less than that.

La Mode—I should think they would. Less than this would be quite too daring.

The Topic of the Day.  
 First Maid—Regarding about a party given the day before by the (mistress)—And they all came in limousines and had on the grandest clothes and wore the biggest diamonds.

Neighbor's Maid—And what did they talk about?  
 First Maid—Us.

Aged Quickly.  
 A visitor going through a rug factory stopped beside an Armenian who was busy playing his shuttle. "You make antique rugs, too?" he inquired, presently.

"Oh, yes," was the grinning reply. "Dis rug when hee finished is 200 years old."—Boston Transcript.

Not in Hays.  
 The young woman from the country was a guest at a dinner at which a noted explorer was the center of attraction. Being of a somewhat languid turn, she devoted more attention to the dinner than to the conversation. When the repast was at an end she turned to her left-hand neighbor and said:

"And what was that tiresome old gentleman talking about?"  
 "Progressive Peru," was the reply. "Is that so?" continued the young woman, with some interest. "And how do you play it?"

## SPECIAL MEDAL FOR NAVY MEN

Ottawa, March 16.—Hon. C. C. Balmistyne said that special medals had been struck for ex-service men of the navy after careful consideration had been given the advisability of distinguishing the naval men from military men. He gave some figures of Canada's contribution to the naval forces. 1,544 men, he said, served overseas in the Imperial Navy of which twenty-six were killed in action, three were lost at sea, eleven died of disease, and five were wounded. In addition five thousand Canadians served in the Royal Canadian Naval Service in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. These men were properly proud of their connection with the naval service and wanted a medal which would distinguish them as belonging to the navy.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was waiting three our dining room, this afternoon, just waiting three, and wat did I see on the side board but a grate big round cake with chookit icing all over it, ma thinking, Gosh, G, I'm glad I saw that, now I won't eat much for supper so I'll have plenty of room for it.

With we had Hamburg stakkes and mash potatoes and peas for supper, ma saying, Jest give me one Hamburg stake, ma, I don't feel like meny Hamburg stakkes.

Wy, the idee, the last time we had them you ate at least 6 and wanted more, sed ma.

Who, me? I sed.

Yes, you, sed ma, and I sed, Well, I don't feel like meny Hamburg stakkes today.

You look like a few, sed pop.

And ma only gave me one, taisting grate, but I didn't ask for any more on account of thinking I would get more cake on account of not having ate meny Hamburg stakkes, and ma sed, How about some more peas and potatoes, Benny?

No mam, I sed.

Well I never, sed ma.

Do you think it would be better to done for the doctor or jest save time and ring up for an ambulance rite away? sed pop.

O by the way, sed ma, while we're on the subject of eating I want to warn everybody there's no dissert tonight, I made a cake for the church fair it took up all my time.

Aw heek, G, aw I sed, and pop sed, At last I appreciate the sensations of the old mariners for the sake of the church, and I passed my plate with nothing on it, saying, Can I have some more, ma?

More wat? Sed ma, and I sed, Everything, especially Hamburg stakkes.

With she did.

## SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO POPULAR FARMER

Amherst N. S., March 16.—Mr. Morley Smith the popular farmer of Fort Lawrence met with a serious accident a few days ago when he cut his foot while chopping logs at Fort Lawrence. Blood poisoning set in and he was removed to Highland View Hospital, Amherst, where the doctors found it necessary to amputate his foot, this morning. The operation was successful but at ten p.m. he died very suddenly from the effects. He is survived by a wife and seven children. Funeral on Thursday.

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## KEEPING AHEAD

Whether he's employee or boss, when a man isn't keeping up he's slipping.  
 And the smooth piece of ice that may be slipping on is an unreliable watch. Time is capital to you—too precious an asset to waste.  
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