

POOR DOCUMENT

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 14, 1909.

WANTED—A TRIMMER.

The boys of grade 9 in the high school are altogether too big for their seats. This is a complaint made by the superintendent of education. He adds that it is painful to him to see those lads squeezing into corners too small for them, and endeavoring to tuck their legs under desks which do not offer sufficient storage space.

It is such a sight as is painful to Dr. Bridges, how much more must the unfortunate state of affairs appeal to the boys themselves. And think of the suffering of the seats! Certainly something should be done, or one of these days there will be a general cracking of benches. Why not engage an expert surgeon who will reduce the boys' limbs and hips to the regulation size? Doubtless the great stream of knowledge flowing into these lads is the direct cause of their inflation—for learning out-times misses the brain and lodges in the heels. Yet it is very reprehensible indeed for these boys to exceed physically the limits set by an all-wise board. In grade 9 there is no doubt a fixed standard of height and weight, and boys who fall to conform to this should be regarded as undesirable. They have no right to expand, and even though well-developed limbs are no doubt useful at some talented legs who marathons—still school is not the place for them.

Now, just think what trouble might have been avoided had the trimmer been sent. He could have kept tabs on every leg in school, and by judicious shaving thin slices off the sides or taking out a few inches every now and then below the knee, have kept the boys in proper shape to fit the benches while at the same time maintaining their normal health. Certainly something must be done. It would be well to find out, first of all, just how many of the boys are too big for the seats, secure exact data as to the superfluous flesh, and maybe a list of your eminent men might be taken for the purpose of taking the contract for trimming. The longer this condition is neglected the heavier will be the boys and the job when action is taken.

THE TRUANCY LAW.

A month or two ago the Star suggested that the methods employed under the truancy officer and the police, under the direction of the school board, in enforcing the compulsory education act, were silly. Direct reference was made to the case of a named Harrington who, to the consternation of his family, was dragged out of bed by two policemen at four o'clock in the morning, and taken to the central station. The Star contended that such drastic measures would undoubtedly make that boy more determined than ever to dodge school and to give trouble to the truancy officer. Last evening the board of trustees briefly discussed the question, and after reading the paper was in error and that the truancy officer and police were doing exactly the right thing. This decision was reached in direct defiance of the truancy officer's report that since his spectacular and wholly unnecessary arrest of the lad in question has successfully managed to avoid school. The course against which the Star protested had exactly the effect this paper said it would have, yet in spite of the evident result the trustees find fault with the Star for telling them the truth and endorse all that has been done by their officer and the police. They declare that the present methods must be followed unless the enforcement of the law is to become a farce, disregarding the fact that the existing methods the law has already been made a farce in a number of instances.

THE NOMINATIONS.

Not for many years has such interest in civic affairs been displayed as is apparent in the present campaign. Whether or not there is a general awakening on the part of electors to the serious condition in which St. John finds itself, there is at least sufficient enthusiasm to make this spring's contest a lively one. The list of candidates for the council is large; it includes several well known and successful business men who if elected will perhaps introduce into the deliberations of that august body something like systematic effort. Others of the candidates are better than the ones we have, and certainly while it will be an easy matter for St. John voters to select a stronger council than the present one there is also the possibility of electing a weaker body. This, eventually, however, need not be feared, for in the presence of so many reason-

ably good men, the weak ones will undoubtedly be forgotten.

Mayor Bullock, and Aid. Vanwart, Christie and McGoldrick have been returned without opposition. The Star is of the opinion that a better man than Aid. McGoldrick might have been chosen, but perhaps his exuberant spirits may be kept in check during the coming aldermanic year. Aid. Vanwart is looked upon by some as scarcely heavy enough for the rather onerous duties devolving upon the older members of the council, but it must be admitted that his administration of the safety board has been satisfactory at least from the financial point of view, and he will now be given an opportunity to continue this good work.

Aid. Christie has the qualities which go to make a satisfactory alderman, and the only real criticism that can be offered is that he fails to regard the council with that seriousness which—even in spite of its past—should be manifest. He may improve through time.

It is fitting that Mayor Bullock should be accorded another term. His administration has been eminently satisfactory and he deserves the renewal of confidence now shown him. Among the candidates in certain wards it is hard to choose. There is an inclination among some citizens to this present council, but if it opposes all the present council, and the results would be disastrous. Some of the aldermen are well worthy of support and will be needed for the proper transaction of business. There is a wide range for selection, and of the lot surely a stronger council can be chosen than the one now existing.

The Toronto Globe suggests that the Pride of Ontario should have a Zoo. Well, a fair start might be made with Mr. George E. Foster and Col. Denison.

Stenographers can secure positions where good work is appreciated and paid for accordingly. Now! By using the "want" ads.

Collector (angrily)—You know very well, sir, that this bill has been running several years—now, I put it up to you, what do you want me to do with it?

Deputy George! I'd enter it in the next Marathon race if I were you.

Biggs—That fellow Oliver is inclined to be somewhat contrary, isn't he?

Diggs—Contrary! Say, if he had two ideas in his head they would fall out with each other.

"Do you consider a college training an advantage?"

"Unquestionably yes. At the same time some of our best ballplayers have learned the game on back lots."

"Love makes the world go round," quoted the Wise Guy.

"I suppose that accounts for the fact that so many girls are giddy," added the Simple Mug.

"I'm in a difficulty over my girl."

"What's wrong?"

"I've been saying such nice things to her that she's getting conceited. If I stop she'll think I don't care for her any longer. And if I go on she'll think she's too good for me."

Bridg (weeping)—You complain about the meals already, and I thought you might at least close one eye to the cooking the first month we were married.

The Hungry Husband—My dear, I have closed both, but things don't taste any better.

"So you are an optimist?"

"In a certain sense," answered Mr. Dustin Dixie. "Whenever I go into a deal I hope for the best of it."

THIRTEEN JURORS WILL

HEAR BRIBERY CASE

Looks Unlikely for the Prisoner—2310

Citizens Summoned Before Panel Was Completed.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 13.—Thirteen jurors will hear the evidence in the case of Patrick Calhoun, president of the United Railroads, charged with offering a bribe to a former supervisor.

Provision for the odd juror was made today by Superior Judge Lanyon, upon application of the prosecution and after the defense had opposed any such departure.

In rendering his decision the court expressed a determination not to endanger the work of thirteen weeks by neglecting any precaution that might insure an uninterrupted trial.

To qualify the twelve men now seated in the box, it was necessary to summon 2,310 citizens, 887 of the number being actually interrogated by the attorneys. The trial has been in progress at days and sessions of the court have been held sixty-two days. In this respect the Calhoun case exceeds the record made in the last trial of Abraham Ruef, when a jury was procured after 16 days and after 640 jurors had been examined.

A MEAN REPLY.

She—Do you remember that thirty years ago you proposed to me and that I refused you?

He—Oh, yes. That's one of the most treasured recollections of my youth.

A Tonic or a Stimulant?
Ayer's Sarsaparilla is a tonic. It does not stimulate. It does not make you feel better one day, then as bad as ever the next. There is not a drop of alcohol in it. You have the steady, even gain that comes from a strong tonic. Ask your doctor all about this. Trust him fully, and always do as he says.

SHIPS FOR OCEAN AND FOR THE AIR

Britain Still Agitated by Question of Defence.

Beresford is Silent—Has Refused Nineteen Invitations to Stand for Parliament.

LONDON, April 13.—Easter has brought with it all the storm that has been around the head of the British Government over its alleged incapability to safeguard Britain's supremacy at sea and the air. The storm has been a long one, and the attacks have been making headway as if there had never been a ripple on the surface of their complacency. The naval agitators, however, mean to return to the charge after the recess which, in the words of the Imperial Maritime League, is preparing to make a campaign throughout the country which, in the words of the Premier, will "induce the nation to fling out the Government which betrayed it, for so only can Britain be saved."

The Liberals affect to regard these threats with serenity, for they consider that the naval agitation is a correct diagnosis of the political situation, more especially as it is becoming universally understood that Mr. Asquith, the Premier, and his colleagues will take no chance of being left behind in the race for naval supremacy and will lay down within the next few extra Dreadnoughts which were the "conditional" ships of Mr. McKenna's programme.

Beresford Hiding His HAND.

Some of the extremists in the navy agitation, however, have gone so far as to damage the cause they have at heart. For instance, Captain Bellairs, M. P., supported by a number of other politicians, called upon the Premier to institute an inquiry into "the scope and effect of the changes introduced into the navy during the last forty years." This is a direct challenge to the system inaugurated by Sir John Jellicoe.

For once the Imperialist Daily Mail found in agreement with the Liberal Westminster Gazette which says: "So long as this agitation is confined to politicians and conducted on political grounds it will do no harm to the navy, but the moment it is enlarged to include the Admiralty and administration it will at once threaten mischief to the discipline and efficiency of the service."

Lord Charles Beresford, who holds more true faith in the naval policy than any other man in England, meanwhile refuses to disclose his hand. He has received nineteen invitations to stand for Parliament, but has issued a statement saying that he is accepting none of them.

THE AIRSHIP SCARE.

The patriotic ferment has been taken advantage of by those who hold that Britain does not take her proper place in the contest for the supremacy of the air. This reply given by Mr. Haldane, the Secretary of State for War, in the Commons last week to the question respecting the progress made by the war office in the matter of airship building and experimental work, has done much to stir up the airship scare.

The French Government proposed to have the stations for dirigible balloons, and that in Germany six military balloons had been built and more were reported building. When the fact that the Zeppelin was in the exclusive charge of military officers, who conducted it through the balloons with remarkable precision, showed that in Germany at least, there is a serious intention of employing the balloon in military operations in any future war, and the further fact that secrecy was enjoined by the military authorities regarding the details of the experimental voyages added significance.

MEN OF "JUMPY NERVES."

This was enough to start an aerial scare in England among those whose nerves are "jumpy," to use the word employed by David Lloyd-George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, returned the check for £200 which the Editor of The Nation Review had sent as a contribution toward building Dreadnoughts.

At once a meeting was held at the Mansion House under the auspices of the Aerial League of the British Empire, which is described as "a non-political organization to secure and maintain for the empire the same supremacy in the air as it now enjoys on the sea. Some speakers at the meeting recognized that England had a lot of ground to make up before she could lay any claim to supremacy in the air, but the Lord Mayor contributed a note of optimism by remarking that some of the greatest movements ever seen had had their origin in the City of London.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR AN AIRSHIP.

One and the only suggestion at all practical made at the Mansion House meeting was that the City of London should subscribe funds for the construction of a dirigible balloon and present it when completed to the British Empire. This idea is to be developed by the Aerial League of the British Empire into a national subscription. The officials of the league profess their ability to raise £20,000 or £30,000 of which to build the airship.

Lord Northcliffe offers a prize of £1,000 for the first aeroplane flight of one mile by a machine entirely of British invention and construction.

Throughout the twenty-four hours the tents are filled with shifts of men, each shift remaining three hours. On entering each man receives a pint and a half of thick soup and a thick slice of bread. After eating this they are put to saving and chopping and tying up the small bundles of landing wood that are universally used in London.

At the end of three hours each man again receives the same quantity of food he had on entering, and on going out gets a ticket entitling him to a bed for that night in some lodging house.

In the number of unemployed whose lot was followed on this particular night were several Americans.

THE STARVING MEN OF LONDON IN BREAD LINE

Thousands of Unemployed Are Fed Nightly by Church Army—Labor Colonies Have Proven to be a Costly Failure.

LONDON, April 13.—Unemployment and the resulting poverty, bringing thousands—how many it is impossible to compute—to the starvation line is a far more pressing evil, even a more immediate danger, in this country than is probably realized either here or abroad by the general public.

Early last autumn it is not too much to say that the British government looked forward to the coming winter in a spirit almost of panic.

Unemployment and distress were reported on such a scale from all parts of the kingdom even then that alarm, and very serious alarm, was felt as to what might be the result when the real pinch of winter should come. As it happened, the most serious part of the year went by without anything more alarming coming to pass than previous years have witnessed. But the widespread unemployment, poverty and distress remain, and with them the question of what they are to lead to.

So far the alarm given by the reports in a week-kinded government has led to a certain amount of panic. Legislation, which while leaving the root of the evil untouched, has served as a sop to the leaders and organizations which vaguely threatened trouble.

The ill-considered and worse applied old age pensions act and other legislation affecting the least status of trades unions call the relations of employer and employee, which have been too fully described to need more than a bare mention, have been the work of a panic-stricken government too anxious to pacify the mob they fear to consider the welfare of the masses and beyond question are in need of assistance based on proper economic principles.

MUCH MISERY IN THE CITY.

Nowhere more than in London is this need so evident. In no city is equal starvation and ragged poverty so forcibly thrust upon the attention even of the casual passerby.

In the warm weather the turf of every park is thickly strewn throughout the day with sleeping forms of the unemployed, among them, in a certain proportion of deserving poor and unfortunate people.

When the days are cold there are not so many to be seen in London that are not at every day a ragged and hungry-looking beggar to open the door of the charity, but the picture is not so pretty, according to the distance of the nearest policeman, for a copper.

Thousands of the worst wretches, unemployed because they are unemployed, are excluded from the ever-increasing number of youths who have learned to do no sort of work, and the pitiful army of broken women, 5,000 of whom make a pathetic spectacle of the streets of the west end on the day of the opening of parliament, there must, it is calculated, be at least 25,000 unemployed men in London who have the will and the ability to be hard-working.

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DELIBERATE LIE, SAYS GOVERNOR

Did Not Meet Laurier in Montreal

STAR SAID HE DID

Governor Declares That He Hasn't Been Out of Province

FREDERICTON, N. B., April 13.—The following telegram has been sent to the Montreal Star at the instance of Governor Tweedie:

"To the Editor of The Star, Montreal: 'I am instructed by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick to call your attention to an article in The Star of the 13th instant, alleging that he was in Montreal on that date or the previous day.'

"The Lieutenant Governor went to his home in Chatham on Thursday last to spend the Easter holidays, returning to Fredericton today, and was not out of the province during that time.

(Signed), "R. S. BARKER, Private Secretary."

As instancing the absolute bareness of the misrepresentation the following is quoted from The Star's article: "Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, and his private secretary, Mr. Lemaire, arrived in Montreal this morning on very important business to meet Hon. Mr. Tweedie, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, to confer with him upon the decision to be taken about the proposed extension of the Central Railway. The prime minister left the Windsor Hotel early and alone this morning and did not come back before late in the afternoon. . . . During the time he was absent it was understood that he was in conference with Mr. Tweedie at the government offices."

The above is a deliberate fabrication. Governor Tweedie states that not only had he remained in the province, but that he had no communication whatever with either Sir Wilfrid Laurier or Hon. Mr. Pugsley since Mr. Pugsley's visit on Thursday last.

FUNNY CONDITIONS IN SPANISH DOCK YARDS

TOULON, April 13.—The parliamentary committee of investigation, during the course of their tour of the dock yards, today, unearthed a number of completely rusted boilers which had lain there since 1884, when they were bought to replace the worn-out boilers aboard the cruiser Comma, the former battleship Richelieu and the Admiral Du Perre and other obsolete vessels. They were never even fitted into position and are now useless, although costing with time for preservation purposes.

The committee also discovered that all the guns on the coast defense ships had been fitted with new apparatus on the day she was struck out of service.

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St. John Branch—Cor. King and Germain Streets. F. B. SPANIER, Manager.

CANADIAN ORDER FORESTERS

Assessment system, Fraternal Insurance.

NIGHT OF MEETINGS CITY COURTS COURT ST. JOHN, N. 470—Orange Hall, Germain street, 1st Friday in month.

COURT UNION JACK, N. 549—Orange Hall, Germain street, 1st Wednesday.

COURT NORTH END, N. 647—Union Hall, Main street, last Tuesday each month.

COURT TUKON, N. 723—Orange Hall, Simonds street, Third Wednesday.

COURT HAWTHORN, N. 735—Temperance Hall, Market Building, 1st Wednesday.

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CAUTION!

Refuse any bread sold as BUTTERNUT BREAD

without this label.

DEATHS

SHIRLEY—At 223 Charlotte St., Tuesday, 13th inst. Noema, wife of Herbert Shirley, leaving husband and four children, brother and sister to mourn their loss.

FUNERAL SERVICE: Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Friends invited to attend.

BRITAIN—On Tuesday, April 13, Mary Ruth, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Britain. Funeral Thursday afternoon at 2:30 from her parents' residence, 31 High Street.

MADE A FUSS.

Clara, aged 6, did not know the meaning of an encore, and was very much disgusted with the children's concert in which she took part.

"I just know we didn't make a single mistake," she exclaimed, "yet the people in front got cross and made such a fuss that we had to do it all over again."

There were no developments other than already mentioned in yesterday afternoon's nomination proceedings. Mayor Bullock and Ald. Vanwart, Christie and McGoldrick were elected by acclamation. The announced candidates filed their papers, a total of thirty-five being received.