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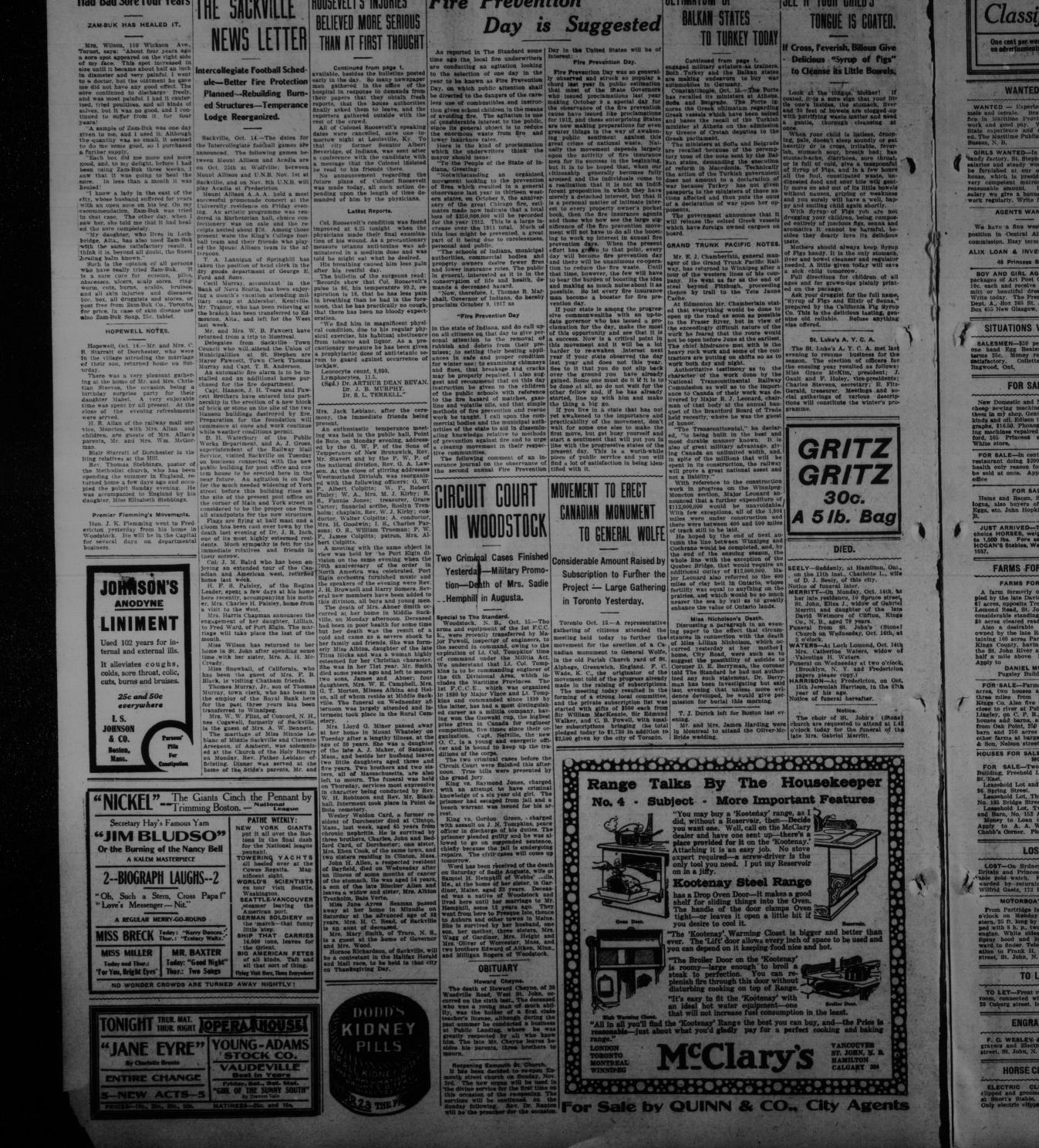
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THE STANDARD, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1912

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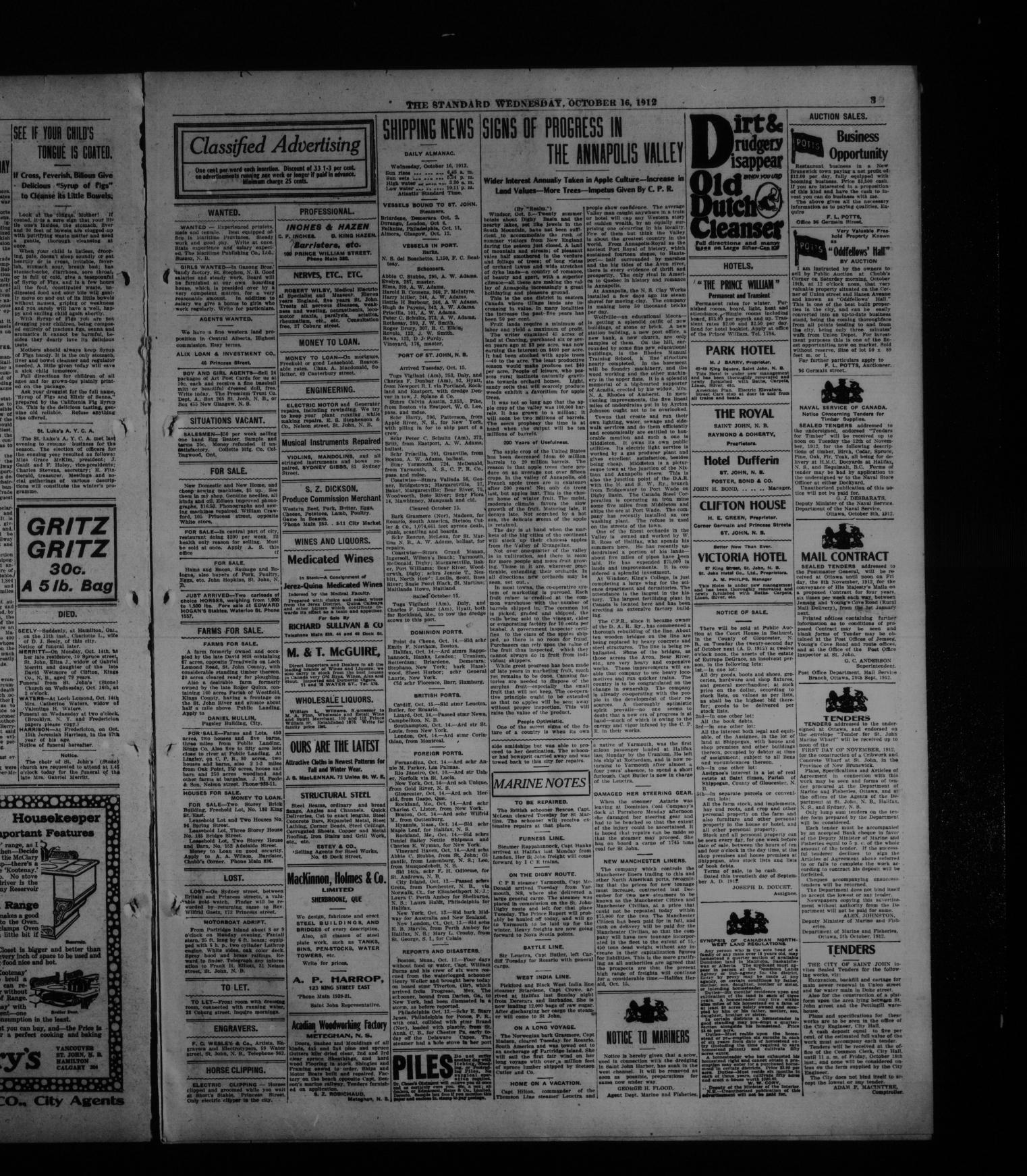
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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1912.

MACDONALD ELECTION AND THE PREFERENCE.

It is worth noting, for the benefit of Liberal organs which profess, when occasion serves, to be imbued with a strong imperial sentiment, that the electorate of Mac-donald in the recent bye-election in Manitoba, pointedly declined to vote for an increase in the British Preference. There were two main planks in the platform of Mr. Rich-ardson, the Opposition candidate—Reciprocity and a fur-ther reduction of the Customs duties on British merchan-dise imported into Canada. By an overwhelming majority both these propositions were turned down—Reci-procity, because it has goile to that bourne from which no traveller returns, and there was no sense in resurreciting it, and an increased preference for the obvious reason that the time is not ripe to seriously consider the ques-tion.

tion. The agitation to increase the British Preference en-gineered by the Grain Growers' Guide, and eagerly back-ed by other Liberal organs, affords an instructive illus-tration of what a difference being in opposition a short time makes. During the years Sir Wilfrid Laurier was office a preference of 33 1-3 per cent. was good enough fer the Mother Country; not a murmur was to be hear For the Mother Country; not a murmur was to be heard in the ranks of the journals supporting the Government. Sir Wilfrid, we were told, was an Imperial statesman be-yond compare for the great been he had conferred on the British manufacturer. Another Government comes into power, holding similar views to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on this question, and a how) premuly race up from the this question, and a howl promptly goes up from the Opposition press: "Increase the Preference! Where is your patriotism

here is a business side as well as a patriotic side There is a business side as well as a particle side to the preference question and Sir Wilfrid Laurier fre-quently emphasized this fact at Imperial Conferences. Only last year before leaving for the Conference he de-fined his policy on this point: He said:

"Our policy was set forth by the Canadian Ministers at the Colonial Conference of 1902 and in these words: The Canadian Ministers stated that if they words: The canadian Ministers stated that it they were assured that the Imperial Government would accept the principle of Preferential trade generally, and would, particularly, grant the food products of Canada in the United Kingdom exemption from any duties now levied or hereafter to be Imposed, they, the Canadian Ministers, would be imposed, they, further into the subject, and would endeavor to give the British manufacturer some increased advan over his foreign competitors in the markets of Can-ada.' This was our policy laid down at the Colonial Conference of 1902. This will be our policy at the

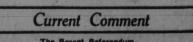
Liberal press in 1911. There has been no change in the situation since the Conservative Government took office. The British Government, under the leadership of Mr. Asquith, have not accepted the principle of preferential frade generally, or as it more commonly called Imperial Preference. It is much to be regretted but it is none the less true that Mr. Asquith is on record as declaring that Imperial Preference "is the greatest and most dis-

THE NAVAL SITUATION IN THE NORTH SEA.

The Naval and Military Record, one of the leading fournals devoted to the two Services in the Old Country, sives an instructive review of the fleet organization of the German Navy under the new navy law, and submits a comparison of Great Britain's naval strength in the North Sea. To Canada the naval situation in the North Sea has some special features of interest. The super-ority of the British Navy in these home waters is the guarantee for the protection of the trade routes. Writ-ing from the standpoint of the British Navy the Record says:

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