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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1920.

TIME FOR A SHOW DOWN

In contemplating a strike against the order of President Hanna of the Railway Board which forbids railway employees from accepting parliamentary or legislative positions, the employees appear to be losing sight of the point of the dispute altogether; and if it becomes necessary to have a showdown, it may as well come first as last. The contention of the men that Mr. Hanna's order interferes with their rights as ordinary citizens to seek public office is an entirely erroneous one. It does not do anything of the kind; it merely, in effect, declares that if a man wants to enter public life in such a way and to such an extent as will interfere with the performance of the duties for which he is paid, he must quit his job. He cannot possibly be at work in two places at the same time.

A strike of railwaymen at the present time, would be—to say the least—very inconvenient, and for one to take place as a result of the present disagreement, would not meet with very much sympathy from the public. Speaking generally, the people as a whole are more inclined to be sympathetic to the reasonable demands of labour than otherwise; but they have no patience with fancied or unreal grievances. In the present instance, if any railway official wants to become a member of Parliament or Legislature, there is no reason at all why he should not, but it is utterly unreasonable to suppose that he can be permitted to absent himself from his regular work for several weeks, while he attends to his personal affairs, and at the same time retain his job. If the railwaymen were working for a private employer they would not expect him to keep them on his payroll while they were away attending to other business and drawing pay for it; and there is no reason why because the employer happens to be the Government that they should receive any different treatment. Mr. Hanna's refusal to permit any employee to be away from his job for weeks at a time cannot under any circumstances be called a hardship; if they want to go into public life; no one wants to hinder them. And they cannot both keep their cake and eat it. Let us have a showdown by all means and get it done with.

THE MARRIAGE LAWS

There has been a good deal of newspaper and other comment during the past few months on the great increase in number of applications for divorce, and of the reasons for the same. Perhaps if some consideration were given to the marriage laws without which these applications for divorce would not be possible, some improvement might result. While not all unions that turn out badly are the result of hasty or ill-considered marriages, there can be no doubt that many of them are; if some couples were not married in quite so much haste, they would not have occasion to repent at their leisure.

It is scarcely possible that the marriage laws of any province of the Dominion or State of the Union could be more loose than they are in New Brunswick. Here there are absolutely no safeguards of any kind; any couple who want to be married, can be, without any trouble whatever, always provided that they do not wish to be married under the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. This church is the only one that treats the marriage service seriously. Under the law of this province, any young man who can scrape up $5.50 can get a license with as little trouble as he can buy a packet of tobacco. All he has to do is to go to a marriage license vendor, accompanied by a friend who will become his bondsman, which is the merest matter of form, pay his money and get his license. There is absolutely no notice required and the minister will, usually "keep mum" for some days if asked to do so. By this means any young girl may be inveigled from home and married without her parents being any wiser. As a rule, the minister does not care; the couple have been granted a license to marry, and as far as he is concerned, that is all there is to it. If he is inclined to have any doubts about the matter and refuses to marry the couple, he knows very well that some other parson will; so he puts his scruples to one side and performs the ceremony.

In yesterday's paper there was an account of a runaway match between a youth of twenty and a girl of fourteen, who met at St. Stephen and were married there. Nobody knew anything about it until it was all over, and the bride's parents began to make enquiries. Under proper marriage laws this could not have happened. As matters stand today, a couple who live in St. John, may take the train to some other town, get a license there, be married and come back again and no one be one whit the wiser. It is done every day.

Were any couple who seek to be married required to procure the license from the vendor in the locality in which they live and notice of the proposed wedding posted up in the vendor's office or some other public place where the public could see it for at least a week (in England it is 21 days), there would be fewer runaway matches. If any couple is not willing to have public notice given of the intended marriage, and to wait a week after it, then the marriage were betterprevented until they are willing. The honest, well-considered marriage does not suffer at all. We have far too much of secret marriages, of overnight decisions to marry, of runaway marriages, and of mere irresponsible tying of the matrimonial knot. Unfortunately, there are, as we have said, ministers who ask few or no questions, as long as the circumstances seem ordinary. If public notice of a week were required, parents and friends would have a chance of rescuing girls from reckless matrimonial ventures of which they may not approve.

INTERFERENCE

On the day of the Presidential Election, the people of the United States told President Wilson that his services were no longer required, yet the Constitution of that country leaves him and his party in control of affairs for several months after their intimation that they no longer want him. He appears to be determined to use the interval to the best advantage and although the popular vote was against him and his League of Nations programme, he is evidently not going to lose his grip on it or let it die as long as he has anything to say about affairs. In view of what has happened, Mr. Wilson's note to Great Britain which was forwarded the other day over Mr. Secretary Colby's signature, is about as great a piece of presumption as can well be imagined. It might not unnaturally be supposed that Mr. Wilson would recognize the fact that other nations will not now regard him as representing the views of the American people; and that instead of pushing his personal views forward, he would have left the question of his country's participation in European affairs to be dealt with by those who will shortly succeed him.

The United States Government has not, under existing circumstances, very much right to interfere in European matters at all, and Secretary Colby's note regarding Mesopotamia can only be regarded as impertinent. There is no doubt that the fact that there are valuable oil deposits in that country has been the prime factor in inducing the President to interfere,—but that need not worry the American people, who have such enormous oil deposits of their own, and the interference will only tend to accentuate the distrust with which a large portion of the British people are inclined to regard the United States. If Britain, whose armies released Mesopotamia from Turkish rule, had claimed the country by right of conquest, she could have made up a large part of her shortage in oil resources. Instead, she is protecting and assisting Mesopotamia on behalf of its Arab people while giving assurances to nations that had nothing to do with its emancipation that they will have the same opportunity to benefit from its development as she will.

There are undoubtedly great possibilities ahead of the Mesopotamia oil fields, which Britain cannot afford to ignore. It is of the utmost consequence to her that a sufficient oil supply should be available to her in the future; and the idea that President Wilson seems to hold, that when any new sources are likely to become available, the United States Government must be allowed some say in their distribution, will not receive any very sympathetic recognition by the British people.

Mr. Lindsay Crawford's lines do not appear to be cast in very pleasant places just at present. A few more demonstrations such as he experienced at Fredericton and Moncton and he will be forced to the conclusion that the people of the Maritime Proovinces do not particularly want his company.

AMERICAN BUSINESS MEN ADMIRE ENGLAND

(By F. A. McKenzie, in the Empire Mail.)

Eighteen months ago American business leaders regarded British trade prospects with profound pessimism. They thought that this country must be crippled, if not crushed by the heavy burden of the war and by industrial unrest. Writers like Mr. Frank Vanderlip, then President of the City National Bank of New York, came back from London with tales of gloom. To judge from these, one would have imagined that repudiation of our national liabilities and red revolution lay right ahead of us.

Today the attitude of America towards us has completely changed. From alarm and despair the responsible American authorities are adopting a tone of admiration and in some ways of envy. They are beginning to appreciate England's gains because of the war; they have discovered that our industrial troubles, bad as they seem to us, are not nearly so bad as the labour disputes that rack many American trades; they are loud in their praise of the way in which we are putting post-war machinery together to avail ourselves to the full of the advantages awaiting us. "The British business man," wrote one of the chief foreign experts of the United States, recently, "is today determined to recapture the trade won from him in pre-war days by the Germans. Great Britain today has enormous resources to draw upon. Mesopotamia is certain to become one of the great granaries of the world as a result of the irrigation system planned by British interests. The absorption of German East Africa will enable the British railroad builder to realise his dream of a line from the Cape to Cairo. German South-West Africa and other German colonies will yield rich returns to the British miner and agriculturalist. The new treaty with Persia—frequently described as the greatest diplomatic stroke since the acquisition of the Suez Canal shares by Disraeli—will give the British Government a controlling interest in the Persian oilfields, which may well be one of the big factors in paying off the British war debt."

A Criticism of British Banking.

The American does not admire some of our financial methods so much as he did in the days before the war. He believes that our banking system failed to show sufficient elasticity under war conditions and that British banks crippled, rather than aided, British traders in the great days of trial of 1914-1915. The unwillingness of British bankers to make advances upon goods, thus preventing manufacturers from producing and storing during the dull early war days for consumption afterwards, seems to the American particularly unwise. But while he criticises our banking limitations, he has nothing but undisguised envy for our banking and financial machinery, particularly for the machinery for financing foreign trade which centres around Lombard street.

The foreign banking agencies of Britain, and more especially our supply of expert bank clerks, trained in dealing with foreign exchange, are the envy of Wall street. America today has almost unlimited money for foreign enterprises. The great American banks and trusts are desirous more than anything else of obtaining chains of branches throughout the world which will rival British financial organizations. But they are hampered by the lack of men with knowledge. They have tempted many trained men from British banks. They have established training schools to educate their own men. In time, no doubt, they will catch up to us. But today Britain's financial tentacles, spread all over the world, are America's envy.

Respect For Labor Organization.

It comes as a surprise to the British manufacturer to discover that the Americans regard with great respect much of our organization of labor. The survival of the old trade Guilds, institutions such as the "Chapels" of compositors, which form a means of co-operation of friendly contact between men and masters, were once looked upon as hoary anachronisms. Today trans-Atlantic sociological experts have found that they are some of the most valuable and humanising elements in labor relations. The British workmen's co-operative stores are attracting more and more attention among American employers. They find here a great steadying force which their own labor lacks.

The American employer has not yet come to the point where he is willing to adopt the foundation basis of British relations between labor and capital. In America the relation between employer and employed is, on the whole, an autocracy; in Britain it is a democracy. The American employer is an autocrat, a benevolent autocrat, if wise, but an autocrat nevertheless. Leading employers, men like Judge Garry, openly stand up and defend principles in industrial relations which we have wiped off the slate for twenty years and more. In America the foundation idea of the average American manufacturer is that he is going to be master in his own house, that he is going to suffer no interference from anyone, and that he is, in a word, "Boss." He is prepared, more or less, according to his enlightenment, to provide all sorts of means of social amelioration and to pay high wages. He employs experts to discover how best to benefit his people. He maintains baths, social clubs, playgrounds, and educational institutions to a degree far beyond what is attempted here. He is proud to do it, proud of his beautiful factory and its lovely gardens, proud of the white-tiled kitchens where good food is cooked at cheap rates, and of the daintily decorated rest rooms for his girl workers.

But the American employer has not yet discovered, as the British employer has, that the only reforms really worth making for your workers are those you can get them to do for themselves, or which they will do in co-operation with the employer taking an active part in the management.

One of the biggest employers in Great Britain declared to me not long ago after a tour through the United States, "America is five hundred years behind us so far as the relations between capital and labor are concerned. She is still living under the feudal system."

(Continued on page 7)

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. Ice holding its shape longer in the ice box.

Spoarts. Puds Simkins saw 2 pidgins hopping erround last Satidday looking like loose pidgins not belonging to enybody, and he started to try a fxperiment to see if its reely true you can catch herds by putting sak on their tale, and after about half a hour his mother called him in and gave him hek for using up her hole new bag of salt and the pidgins was still hopping erround loose.

Sisstety. Mr. Ed Wernick had a fearse stummick ache last Sundey aftirnoon but he felt better in the eevning, the main reason being because he couldent of felt eny werse.

Pome by Skinny Martin.

A BIG SERPRIZE.

A little dog sat on her tale,
Answering to the name of Mag,
But her tale dident know it was sat on
Till it started to try to wag.

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Intristing Facks About Intristing Peeple. Sid Hunt gets a dime every time he dont make his mother mad for a week, ony he hasent got eny yet.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Good M. P.

(Calgary Herald.)

Rumor says that W. A. Buchanan will not again be a candidate for the federal house from Lethbridge constituency. If rumor is current it will be unfortunate for Lethbridge. Mr. Buchanan has been a good member, serving his constituency admirably and proving himself a valuable man in Parliament.

The Cost of Publishing.

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)

Figures of newspaper suspensions show that there are now 25 per cent. fewer newspapers in Canada than there were in the year 1914, the first year of the war. According to the Montreal Star, the cost of producing that paper is now $1,500,000 per year more than it was before the war. What is true of Montreal Star is, no doubt, relatively true of other papers.

THE LAUGH LINE

Matrimonial Hoeing.

"Edith's husband seems to me pretty common clay."

"Well, she's getting the rocks out of him all right."—Boston Transcript.

His One Chance.

"I believe," said the impatient man as he put aside the telephone, "that I'll go fishing."

"Didn't know you cared for fishing?"

"I don't ordinarily. But it's the only chance I have of finding myself at the end of a line that isn't busy."—Boys Life.

Quite So.

They met by chance in the waiting room of a railway station. "My friend," began the man with the bag full of tracts, persuasively, "have you ever reflected on the shortness of life and the fact that death is inevitable?"

"Have I?" replied the man in the big overcoat, cheerfully. "Well, I should say so. I'm an insurance agent."—London Weekly Tribune.

Feminine Self-Denial.

Wife—I saw the loveliest chiffonier today for $50.

Hub—Great Scott, you didn't buy it, did you?

Wife—No, dear, I restrained myself and bought a hat instead.—Boston Transcript.

A Subtle Scheme.

"Auntie, may I have another piece of candy?"

"No, Willie, it will only make your tooth ache more."

"No it won't. I'll just go and eat it in front of the dentist's."—Boston Transcript.

Knew the Animal.

A teacher was instructing a class in English and called a small boy named Jimmy Brown. "James," she said, "write on the board 'Richard can ride the mule if he wants to.'"

"Now," continued the teacher when Jimmy had finished writing, "can you find a better form for the sentence?"

"Yes, ma'am, I think I can," was the prompt answer. "Richard can ride the mule if the mule wants him to."—Boys' Life.

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W. F. Burditt Heads Board of Trade

Retiring President, R. B. Emerson, Reviews Work of Association for Last Year

The annual meeting of the Board of Trade was held at their council chambers last night with a fair attendance of members present. The meeting was given over largely to reports of the year's work, the report of the retiring president and a discussion on hydro-electric power.

President Emerson's Report.

The retiring president, R. B. Emerson, gave an exhaustive report of the work accomplished during the past year, and suggested ideas for future consideration that, properly worked out, would mean much for the general advancement of the city's interests.

Mr. Emerson said the Board had endeavored during the past year to faithfully perform its share of community service. If it had failed to reach its objective this failure was traceable largely to post war conditions that were beyond the control of the board—conditions that not only exercised a bearing upon the activities of the board, but, also, of the commercial, industrial, transportation and general interests of the city. He referred to the activities of the board to further port interests, and of the various delegations sent to Ottawa at the expense of the board to accelerate harbor development and secure a better system of harbor management.

The retiring president emphasized the part the board had taken in helpfully co-operating with the city and other civic bodies in welcoming trade delegations, receiving parliamentarians from Ottawa and the Imperial Parliament visitors.

Looking To Future.

Looking to the future President Emerson said there were many outstanding needs for the city that the coming board would have to follow. Among the most pressing of these were the development of the port along permanent and progressive lines; the extension of the breakwater system; additions to grain conveyors; providing of wireless direction finding stations; the reducing of port costs; the unification of harbor control; providing of ample harbor terminals on land and water; the expansion of the trackage system of both railroads; improvement and cleanliness of the city; improved housing conditions; furnishing of electric power for industries; extension of tram car system; boys work and general community promotion.

In closing his remarks, the retiring president spoke of the unity of effort and pictured the mighty benefits that would accrue to the city if there was a hearty co-operation on the part of business and professional men in the support of the board's work. He believed great things could be accomplished in the way of harbor improvements, publicity for the city, betterment of young citizenship, bringing of capital and labor in closer harmony. It was up to the citizens to accomplish all this by attending the meetings and boosting the work of the board.

If the men of the city, he said, would visualize these things it would not be long before St. John would have a Board of Trade that would be a winner.

As a parting word he said: Come let us get together for the good of the city. Let us remember that in building up St. John we are building up Canada, and we are likewise strengthening the arm of the British Empire by furnishing it with a well equipped port that can be utilized in peace and war and all seasons of the year.

On motion of W. F. Burditt, a vote of thanks was extended the retiring president for his untiring efforts in promoting and advancing the work of the board. He has sacrificed his own business and thrown his soul and energy into the board's work for the advantage of the city, work appreciated by all.

Hydro-Electric Power.

Frank B. Ellis brought up the question of hydro-electric power. He thought, as the Premier was to visit the city an opportunity of continuing and distributing the power in the city, the board might wisely give it some consideration.

Ex-Mayor Hayes thought the proposition ought to be of great interest to the city which has been handicapped on account of power. Industries have been barred from the city, he said, because of excessive power

TAKE CARE OF THAT COUGH

Some people get a nasty cough and don't pay much attention to it, saying "Oh, it will wear away in a short time," but while it may wear off, some lung injury may have been done to the lungs and respiratory organs by the inflamed, harsh, racking coughing.

On the first sign of a cough or cold get a bottle of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. It will stop that annoying troublesome cough, ease the tightness across the chest, and loosen the phlegm.

Mrs. Wm. Farnshaw, Apsley, Ont., writes:—"Last winter I caught a bad cold, had a sore throat and a terrible hacking cough that I could not get rid of. I could not sleep at night. I tried quite a few remedies but they did not do me much good until I got Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. By the time I had taken two bottles, the cough was all gone. I feel that 'Dr. Wood's' has no equal."

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