

The St. John Standard

THE MARITIME ADVERTISING AGENCY, LIMITED, PUBLISHERS.
23 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

Representatives:
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Subscription Rates:
City Delivery, \$6.00 per year
By Mail in Canada, \$8.00 per year
By Mail in U. S., \$4.00 per year

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 8, 1922.

IF BRITAIN GOES IT ALONE.

It is a little difficult to determine whether certain of the reported actions and intentions of the various delegations at Geneva are expressions of bona fide policies or whether they are illustrations of the art of bluffing. If, however, as reported, the British are really determined to make a separate agreement with Soviet Russia in case no joint agreement with the Allies as a whole is reached, France will shortly be faced with a pretty problem.

France is standing out for more rigorous terms with regard to the Russian debts than the Soviet authorities are likely to accept. The United States, through Secretary Hughes, is standing pat on its previous declaration that Russia must put her house in order before the United States will grant political recognition. If neither recedes from the position taken, there can be no prompt resumption of official relations between Russia and France or Russia and the United States.

This might be all very well if all other outside nations took the same position. But Germany has already concluded a treaty with Soviet Russia, and Britain, if reports be true, is going to do something of the same sort if there is no general action. Where will that leave France and the United States?

Britain, apparently, is determined to reopen trade relations with Russia on the largest possible scale. She thinks it essential to her own restoration.

Next to the United States, Great Britain is in better position than any other power to lend Russia the aid which is necessary to speed her rehabilitation. Italy will probably follow her lead, whatever it is. Just on what scale Great Britain, Germany and Italy can furnish the assistance necessary to the development of Russian resources we do not know, but conceivably they can do so to a worthwhile extent. The report about the concession granted to British oil interests in the South Russian fields is illuminating.

If they should decide to go it alone, the fact is that whatever extent Russian trade is revived these powers will have a monopoly of it. France will be left out in the cold. America will be left out in the cold. So will the other European nations which stand by France. If the revived trade proves to be profitable, these nations will grow increasingly jealous of the preferred position of Britain, Germany and Italy; but it is not clear that they could find any effective way of interfering. Probably, in the course of time they would fall in line, but in the meantime the powers which were in on the ground floor would have grabbed the most desirable portion of the Russian business.

There has been general sympathy with the Russian policy of the present and the preceding administration. It has been felt that the Bolsheviks were not people who could properly be dealt with. What would happen, however, if it should develop that the British manufacturers, exporters and capitalists were gaining a considerable trade on which similar classes in that country had set covetous eyes, it might be difficult to predict. It may turn out that the terms accepted by the Soviet authorities in their separate agreement with Great Britain, if one is made, would constitute that house-cleaning which Secretary Hughes has finished upon. In that event, recognition by the United States Government and a similar agreement might follow.

If the Bolsheviks have established a stable and permanent government in Russia; if there is no prospect of their being overthrown in the near future; if Great Britain and Germany and a few other nations do accord the full recognition and reopen trade relations with Russia, it is apparent that others will have to reconsider their attitude toward them. Irreconcilables will speak of the separate agreement by Britain, if it is made, as another illustration of the tingling of the "new" helping the hurt that honor feels. Will it be that, however, or will it be common sense? "The world is a trade unit," said Lloyd George the other day. If it is, we shall have to manage our affairs accordingly.

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE.

President Harding has refused to receive the wives and children of the so-called political prisoners who were assembled and brought to Washington with a view to making an appeal to the sympathies of the Executive in behalf of the men now serving sentences for the violations of laws enacted to make possible the prosecution of the war.

In a statement issued from the White House, it was said that it would have been the same if the wives and children of the political prisoners had been brought to Washington.

group of children, but he had not done so because he believed that the matter of extending executive clemency should not be made a subject for "theatrical parade." The whole demonstration, it was declared, was obviously for publicity purposes and was not a demand of the children who participated in it.

The President, it was intimated, would be inclined to lean over backward in passing upon cases in which the happiness of children was involved and no occupant of the White House, it was said, ever had a kinder feeling toward children. But the emphatic statement was made that "no programme of picketing or parading would ever influence the opinion of the executive office."

The statement is worthy of the man upon whose authority it was made and comports with the dignity of the exalted position that he occupies.

The so-called "Children's crusade" was staged. It was a theatrical performance; a very appealing and touching performance to be sure, but none the less theatrical. Pictures of the youngsters with their banners have been shown at the moving picture theatres and to behold no more than the pictorial representations of these little ones, to visualize their tiny forms and their innocent earnest faces is almost enough to bring the tears.

The little ones now being paraded at Washington would no doubt like to have their fathers back—they would be less than human if they would not—but the fact remains that they did not go to Washington of their own accord, they did not paint or design the banners that they carried and some of them could hardly read them. The Washington spectacle was organized by a body called the American Civil Liberties Union, one of the tenets of which society is that whether a citizen should support his country in time of war ought to be a matter of self-determination. It is quite fair to assume that the members of this society were moved less by their sympathies for the children than they were by their sympathies with the acts of which the fathers of the little ones were found guilty.

However, these facts are to a degree beside the point, that the President can hardly be governed in his official acts by parades or banners. Considerations of justice and law and what is due to the Nation as a whole must form the basis of all his acts. What he would like to do for these particular children must be secondary to what is best for the republic.

In due time the men now serving sentence for traitorous acts against their country will probably be granted some measure of executive clemency, which is likely to take the form of commutation of their sentences; but the President, when he acts, will and must base his action upon reason and justice and not upon stage pictures, however tearful.

WHY LAMENT.

Writers in Paris newspapers have bewailed the absence of Frenchmen from costly and fashionable social affairs, both on the Riviera and in the capital. Says one: "At all our resorts where life is joyous, chic—and expensive—the Frenchmen are conspicuous by their absence. Our rare palaces never shelter a Frenchman. In our casinos, around the green baize-covered tables, one never sees a Frenchman. On our racetracks in the owners' paddock, the number of Frenchmen can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Even our new-ribs with their miserable francs cannot compete with American and British dollar and sterling millionaires, or keep pace with Spaniards and their pesetas." Is this not a cause for congratulation rather than commiseration? Is it not an indication that Frenchmen, even those with "miserable francs," are too busy rebuilding France to waste their time or their money in marble palaces, around green baize-covered tables, or in racetrack paddocks?

KNOWLEDGE AND SATISFACTION.

One writer on rent problems advises all dissatisfied tenants to investigate the price of lots and the cost of house-building. "There would be more satisfied tenants if this were done," he says.

This is probably very true. It would no doubt work good in more ways than the writer originally implied. Where a rent is actually exorbitant or a landlord is greedy for profits and indifferent about service, a road knowledge of fundamental conditions would put the tenant in a much better position to obtain fair and honest treatment. Where the tenant is stingy and "unbending," this same knowledge might be open his eyes to some of the landlord's problems and show him that

the rent he pays is not by any means all clear profit to the house owner.

This is no miracle-working idea, although it might accomplish a considerable amount of good if applied to most of the economic parasites of modern civilization. It is simply a suggestion that the cultivation of intelligent understanding of conditions is the surest method of an intelligent bettering of them.

One of the explanations of forest fires is that dry leaves and branches are very inflammable.

The up-to-date summer resort landlord will have no sea serpent this year. He'll have a pleiosaurus.

Mr. Rocketteller says it is hard to give away a million dollars and he is willing to let it go at that. He knows more about it than most folks.

The girl who rolls her stockings has to find other means of safeguarding her roll.

The old-fashioned way of fighting in China by beating tom-toms and displaying dragon flags was less effective than methods at present employed, but it kept the disabled pension list down.

It is quite apparent that the voters of Indiana in expressing their preference for a Beveridge did not seek anything New, which possibly does not agree with the present day practice.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Lady Astor in a Shoe Store. (Special to The New York Times.) Baltimore, Md., April 23.—Before Lady Astor left Baltimore for Washington she did some shopping. She was hurrying up Charles street when she passed a shoe window. A pair of brown suede pumps—the new kind with the box heel and elastic side—caught her eye. She entered and here is what her ladyship bought for \$38:

One pair of brown suede pumps, box heels, elastic sides, \$10; one pair of black suede pumps, box heels, elastic sides, \$12; one pair of patent leather pumps, single strap round toe, \$18; one pair of silver cloth pumps, high French heels, \$20; one pair of black velvet sandals, high heels, \$13; one pair of patent leather and gray cloth dress pumps, \$13; two pairs of silk hose to match the beige pumps, \$3; total, \$183.

She tried them all on and then slipped a slender foot into her 4 1/2's and hurried out.

As to Women's Rights.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.) If a male citizen of the United States wears of his wife's dress, it is murder; if he is forthwith tried, condemned and usually hanged or electrocuted. If a female citizen wears of her husband's suit, it is murder; if she is forthwith tried, condemned and usually hanged or electrocuted. If a female citizen wears of her husband's suit, it is murder; if she is forthwith tried, condemned and usually hanged or electrocuted. If a female citizen wears of her husband's suit, it is murder; if she is forthwith tried, condemned and usually hanged or electrocuted.

A Woman's Affections.

(St. Catherine's Standard.) A New Jersey jury gave a man who sued for \$50,000 for the alienation of his wife's affections damages to the amount of six cents. A significant feature of the case was that there were two women on the jury. Some of the men members favored damages ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, but the wife would have none of it. She probably had a truer appreciation of the value of a wife's affections which could be so easily alienated.

Perhaps, too, the woman on the jury desired to convey a hint to the public the woman herself must be held responsible for the disposal of her affections under the new conditions arising from automatic no matter equality. Hereafter, with women on the jury the husband who desires to retain his wife's affections must not depend entirely on the law.

A Bare Possibility.

(Buffalo Courier.) Somewhere, perhaps, is a human being without a grievance.

The Georgian Grip.

(Buffalo Courier.) The Georgia conference is probably beginning to understand why it is that the British House of Commons has so much difficulty in getting rid of Lloyd George. Isn't he a clinger?

Often the Case.

(Exchange.) The average man firmly believes that, when a woman promises to love and honor him, she should go right on doing it, automatically, no matter what he may do to discourage her.

In Ireland.

(Toronto Globe.) There is no reason to doubt Messrs. Collins and Griffith when they denounce the recent murders in Cork, but de Valera is abetting the desperadoes who are terrorizing the South and inviting them to set up a military dictatorship. To the Manchester Guardian he said:

"The army, as the last defense of the nation, is entitled, in the last resort, to prevent elections such as those proposed, which may well be regarded as the device of an alien aggressor for obtaining, under threat of war an appearance of popular sanction for his usurped authority."

This is a direct incitement to civil war. Armed riflemen are asked to prevent Irishmen from setting up a parliament of their own choice. The election is due in a month, and the Free State may be baptized in blood.

Why She Quit.

"Why did the new girl in the ribbon department quit?" "The boss found out that her work here interfered with her hair."

Benny's Note Book

BY LES PAPE
THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather: Pears.
The invisibles met out in the park for practice after school last Wednesday but they were prevented on account of nobody having brought a bat and nobody having brought a ball.

Blasphemy. Miss Maud Jenson bet Mr. Arrie Alexander a cent that there was a 's' in onion, and when they looked it up in her fathers dictionary she refused to pay, saying it is wicked to bet. Pome by Skinny Martin.

MUSIC.
I hate and despise my piano lesson
And I set bad every time I take it.
O music is a lovely sound
When other people make it.

Things You Awt to Know. It takes 4 years in college to be a doctor and then you have to get up out of bed all hours of the night.

Interesting Facts About Interesting People. Sam Cross says his baby sister Udeen is getting better looking, Sam saying that's the only possible way for her to get.

Lost and Found. Lost—Valuable papers including 62 cigarret cards and 47 cigar kewpons. Good reward if returned to Lew Davis.

Found—Nothing.

THE LAUGH LINE

Talks Like One.
If you doubt that the child is father of the man, listen to a college freshman conversing with his dad—Chicago News.

The Bride's Joke.
"Mersey!" said the bridegroom impatiently to the bride, "are you going to stand there before that mirror all day? Come on, they're waiting for you."

The bride did not move from the glass, but continued gazing at her counterpart in presentation. "Let them wait," she said calmly. "It is well to indulge in some reflection before one gets married you know."—Boston Transcript.

A Faux Pas.
At Southern railway stations it is the custom of darlings to sell chicken patties and other delicacies to passengers. A passenger who had enjoyed a patty and was leaning out of the window to buy another, asked of the dusky salesman:

"Where do you get your chickens?"
"The darkey rolled his eyes. 'You all fom de No'th, ain't you sah?' he queried."
"Yes," was the reply. "But why do you ask that?"
"Case, sah! No, gem'm'n fom de South eber asks a nigger whar he gets his chickens."—The Argonaut (San Francisco.)

When he Rain Comes

Stolid Luggage Favored.
Guest—Do you require payment in advance?
Hotel manager—Why-er that depends on whether or not your luggage is the emotional kind.
Guest—Emotional kind?
Manager—Yes—easily moved, you know.—Boston Transcript.

He Knew His Place.
"I hear you've signed up as skipper of the good ship matrimony?"
"No, my wife's the skipper, I married a widow, I am her second mate."—Winnipeg Telegram.

Soon.
In but a few short weeks
And then,
The early rising chap at dawn
Will chatter gaily o'er the lawn
Again.—Detroit Free Press.

Two International Crooks Arrested

By Paris Police
Alleged to Have Worked the Old "Con" Game in All Parts of World.

Paris, May 7.—With the arrest of John Pincoot and Arthur Ernest Cox, the French police claim to have put an end to the activities of two international crooks, one of whose last fields of endeavor was the vicinity of Albany, New York state, where they sold an option on a gold mine to a wealthy

Nature intended women to be strong, healthy and happy instead of sick and wretched. But how can a woman be strong and healthy when day in and day out she has to go through the same routine of work, sweeping, dusting, cooking, washing, etc. Is it any wonder that the heart becomes affected and she gets irritable and nervous, has hot flashes, faint and dizzy spells, smothering and sinking spells and can't sleep at night. To all women whose heart is weak and whose nerves are unstrung we would recommend

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