

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1919.

IN THE LAND OF MANANA.

The people of El Paso, Texas, are now enjoying their regular midsummer entertainment. The customary revolutionary activities in and about Juarez are in progress and El Paso is thronged with visitors from that bustling Mexican town who have come over to occupy grandstand reservations on the roofs of El Paso houses and public buildings for the purpose of observing, by the opera glass route or otherwise, the now familiar comings and goings of the Rebels and Federals. In less exciting seasons of the year the movement of the population is in the opposite direction for the people of El Paso are so fortunately situated that by walking across the bridge over the Rio Grande they are enabled to participate in the attractive programme of cock-fighting, bull-baiting and crap games, by means of which Juarez whittles away the dreary hours of a Sunday afternoon. Today, however, El Paso is enjoying a return visit of the Mexican population and is, no doubt, entertaining the visitors to the best of its ability. Dry and dusty, yet with sufficient liquid comfort to overcome the tortures of the heat, and with a location admirably adapted for purposes of observation, El Paso forms the ideal lookout for the revolutionary activities of the neighboring republic. From easy chairs placed on the roofs of houses, from points of vantage in the upper windows, from trees, barns and telegraph poles, the children and adults, Texan and Mexican alike, watch with interest the comings and goings of the disreputable scallagaws assembled under the revolutionary leaders and of the scarcely more presentable Federal troops who can with difficulty remember which side they are supposed to support. And bets are made as to whether the casualty list this year will exceed that of 1918, when one mile was killed and forever chicken-witted, or whether by accident some fellow's gun will go off unexpectedly and by such an unforeseen catastrophe terminate hostilities. What ever may be the procedure of Rebels and Mexican Federals when they meet in the interior, their conduct on the American border partakes very largely of the comic opera. They circle around the town of Juarez, they shoot in the air or in the ground, they use their artillery with great effect on abandoned fortifications—each thing consisting of little heaps of stone and earth. They charge and they re-charge, they draw off in presence of defeat, and assault again with a noise of great shouting. Once in a while when the town has been captured by one or other party, the vanquished creep silently in, have a drink or two with the conquerors and then draw off to resume active warfare. The utmost friendliness prevails between the opposing parties, for no man knows today what side he may be on tomorrow, and while, were living conditions in the town to remain normal, injuries might be caused, the battered soldiers of the mountains and the more dignified, though dubious, Federal troops realize that the civilian population is watching proceedings from a safe distance and that if personal injuries are inflicted on any of the opposing forces, swift punishment will be meted out to the offenders.

THE KINNEL RIOTS.

The Kimmel Camp court-martial has ended with the conviction of twenty-three Canadian soldiers, and the discharge of twenty-six others. All cases were heard before the same court, a rather undesirable policy in view of the fact that any group of men dealing with such a case as this would be inclined, despite their own desires for justice and fair play, to become weary and careless because of the repetition of evidence along the same line. While it is unfortunate that loss of life was caused during the riots at Kimmel Camp, the Canadian Military authorities might well take action towards procuring the release of those who have been convicted and are now under punishment. Had the overseas branch of the Canadian Department of Militia performed its duty in anything like a reasonably competent manner and had administration at home displayed firmness in demanding for Canadian soldiers the fair treatment they deserved these riots would never have taken place. The men were not to blame for the unrest which was caused by the continuation of undesirable conditions, by the breaking of promises, by the seeming neglect of Canadians in order that United States soldiers should benefit, and by the general spirit of unfairness which marked the treatment accorded those four men stationed at Kimmel Camp. It will be remembered that the differences resulting in this court-martial occurred within a few days after the announcement that the big trans-Atlantic route were to be diverted to New York for the accommodation of American soldiers who had not been overseas many months and that our own men were to be brought back on less desirable

steamers and much less rapidly than had been promised. That announcement was the culminating incident in a long series of disappointments for which the administrative officers of the Militia Department were largely to blame, and that the dissatisfaction among the men found expression in unruly conduct was the inevitable outcome. The soldiers who participated in the rioting which unfortunately resulted in loss of life are not deserving of punishment for their conduct, contrary to discipline though it may have been, proved sufficient to bring Ottawa to its senses and impress upon the British Admiralty the fact that the Canadian soldiers who had served so well intended to demand reasonable treatment, and induced the immediate return to Canadian service of the transports which had so unwisely been diverted for the use of undeserving United States troops. The men now under sentence should be discharged at once and without any demerit marks to their names.

THE SCHOOL CAMPAIGN.

Well done, High School, and Well done, Victoria School! In fact, well done all schools! The results to date in the Thrift Stamp Campaign are gratifying indeed and indicate not only an interest on the part of the boys and girls in this worthy movement, but the development of the saving habit among a great many of the school children. Yet, while the figures now given out of the amounts invested in Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps by school societies are reasonably large, the total goes to show that there are still many pupils in the various grades who have not become members of the Thrift Clubs and that there is room for a wide extension of this movement in all the grades. A total of \$12,414 for the province in the five months period is very nice indeed, and St. John especially deserves credit for raising almost \$7,000 of that amount. Perhaps it is true that the city schools were able to start this work earlier than was possible with some of the classes in other towns, but if such such were indeed the case it must be admitted that the individual records of several of these outside schools have far surpassed the St. John per capita savings. It was not anticipated at the beginning of the movement that the amount of money saved by the boys and girls would be very large, and indeed it may still be believed that those who now belong to the Thrift Clubs could put aside much more than they have already done if they really settled down to work. It is to be feared that too large a proportion of their pocket money is squandered foolishly and that by a little closer interest in the Thrift Campaign they would be able to put away double the amount that they have already saved. Let us see if the twelve thousand cannot be made twenty-five thousand in the next five months. During the holidays everyone will have a chance to earn, and this money or the greater part of it should be saved for the purchase of stamps when the schools re-open.

POSSIBLE CHANGES.

Ottawa speculation is to the effect that when the McMaster amendment comes to a division from ten to fifteen supporters of Union. Governments will cast their votes with the Opposition. This is easy, for Union Government assumed control with a total of one hundred and fifty-three seats against eighty-two in the opposition. Changes occurring since the general election have not materially altered the relative standing of the parties, so that even allowing for fifteen bolters from Union on the tariff question, the Government will still enjoy a paper majority of forty, and making allowance for absentees through illness and otherwise, a working majority of at least thirty. This is quite good enough. In fact it is better for the country than a much larger majority could possibly be, for nothing is so conducive to good government as an active opposition. For it need not be believed that all of those who oppose the Government tariff policy will take stand against Union in other matters of national importance, for it is recognized that some of those who most strenuously advocate tariff reduction almost amounting to free trade are at the same time wholly in sympathy with the Union Government and will be prepared on other occasions to stand by the administration until party warfare is actively resumed.

WHAT THEY SAY

Out of the Mouths of Babies. New York Herald: When young Rudyard Kipling sang of the West and the East, that "never the twain shall meet," he little dreamed that so important a statesman as Viscount Kaneko, of Japan, would declare in the year of grace 1919, that this one, raised in a rhyme, was the vital question of the future.

No Higher Service. Transcripts in waiting to this brilliant and modest journalist

(Mr. R. P. Mitchell, of the New York Sun), the degree of Doctor of Letters, Columbia has honored its degree as well as the man, reminding the scholars world that in this age there can be no higher service to letters than the careful, clever, scholarly, fair, and "straight-thinking, hard-hitting" conduct of the editorial page of a great newspaper.

Might Help the World.

Buffalo Express: The old Austrian empire is completely broken up into minor states. A few months of occupation of the Rhenish provinces by Allied troops has led a section of the people of that district to declare for a republic independent of Prussia. Perhaps an occupation of the remainder of Germany would end to a general break-up and thereby remove the danger of another war as no league of nations ever can remove it.

Wounded—in the Pocket.

Buffalo News: A study of the literature of protest that has come from the German delegates at Versailles shows that it is of a personal and material nature. The Germans are not deeply wounded in their national pride and patriotic sensibilities as they are in their pocketbook. The anguish of the settlement lies in the terms of reparation of wealth mortgaged to pay the cost of unsuccessful crime.

Canadians and Copyright.

New York Globe: When the law looks to the justice of the thing it is a good law. And when judges interpret laws liberally they are good judges when the interpretation goes to the establishing of a better feeling between two countries. A few days ago the courts decided that the Canadian Gitz Rice was entitled to a royalty from the records of his songs. Just why it should have been disputed at all in the case of this fine soldier-singer, who has done so much is not clear, unless the manufacturer looked to the establishing of a precedent or looked to his own profits. In any case the rule now is that a Canadian is entitled to copyright protection. Which means that the court paid a tribute to Rice and a greater tribute to Canada.

A BIT OF VERSE

TABLE TALK.

A Dream in Spring.

Mother she calls to me: "Here, Bess, Slip up 't' Beacon Farm," she says, "An' take their basket back again; An' keep an eye on 'em; I'll be back. She thinks the climb 'd do me good, She dunno how I greets that lane."

"Nightingale Lane," as Jim an' me Did used to call 'em, when we were young, Walked out on April nights 'last year; For where it sang above its nest We'd stand 't' inside the hedgerow, prest In one another's arms to hear.

An' Jim he'd learned to mock the bird That natural you never heard: Four long high notes he used to give, Then "Jug-jug-jug," until, maybe, "T'would sing him answer, soon—Then, I shall hear it long's I live!"

An' spring nights, when he'd pitched his fold, An' moonlight was all dusky gold, He'd whistle for me like that—low: An' I'd steal out soft to Jim, No none 'ud see me go to him, Only our nightingale 'ud know.

First of all we cared naught for the war, But before April came once more, Jim he'd had gone, an' fought, an' died; Yes, when he'd heard an' thought on it, It seemed as he must do his bit, For love of me, like—love an' pride.

I durstn't never go that way, Up our old lane, 'cause any day 'The nightingale may get back there; An' sudden, maybe, he might sing The call Jim whistled me, an' 'wing My poor heart worse'n I cud bear.

An' I dreads even's more an' more; When mother's knittin' at the door An' fathers got his pipe an' mug, I sits an' holds my head, for fear Left up our little lane I'll hear Those four long notes, then "Jug-jug-jug."

—Habberton Latham, in the London Spectator.

Millions for defense—and the same amount for prosecution—is the lawyer's motto.



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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Pude Sinkins had his express wagon out yesterday, and me an' him started to go up alleys with it looking for old newspapers to sell to the junk man and we came to a little pile of grass outside of a fence proving somebody had been cutting their grass, and I said, I tell you let's wat, let's put the grass in the express wagon and peddle we're hucksters.

Which we started to do, putting the grass in the bottom of the express wagon and pulling it up the alley, me yelling, Ternips, spinitch, red ripe tomatoes, sparrowgrass.

Cabbages, peas, roobard, red ripe celery, yelled Arse.

And we kept on going, yelling different things to eat, and pritty soon 2 ladies came out of 2 back gates at the same time, one saying, Heer you are, huckster, well, for goodness sakes, its jest these 2 kids, and heer I came all the way from the 3rd floor all out of breath thinking it was a huckster.

Being a short lady with long feet, and the other one sed, I think its a outrage, thats wat I think it is, I was all the way up stairs during the 2nd story back and I heard somebody calling Roobard, and I hurried rite down and wat do I find?—Nothing but these 2 silly boys, I think its a outrage.

Being a fat lady with a thin wrapper, and us 2 hucksters stood there looking at them and wondering weather to run or wat, and the long one saying, I think children like that awt to be looked up, and me saying on the 3rd floor and half to go back agen, if my brother was a pieceman like yours id soon have them looked up, too.

Thats a good idee, thats a good idee, sed the fat one. With jest then Pude Sinkins whispered, I best you to the corner. And I whispered, I, 2, 3, go. And we both ran like everything with the express wagon bumping in back of us like anything, and wen we got around the corner Pude sed, Do you think her brother really is a pieceman?

It wouldnt make any differents to me if he was, I sed.

Me neither, sed Pude.

And we undumped the grass out of the express wagon and stuffed it in our blouses to make bieve we was rather than we really was.

A BIT OF FUN

The divorcee judge, like the poor marksmen makes a good many misses.

The wise young man always laughs at the ancient jokes of his father.

Unsuccessful Author: "After my death this world will realize what I have done."

Sympathetic Friend: "Well, don't worry about it, old chap. You'll be out of harm's way then."

Papa (from the stairs): "Mary, what are you doing out there?"

Mary: "I'm looking at the moon."

Papa: "Well, tell the moon to go home and you come into the house. It's half-past eleven."

Judge: "So you claim that the defendant hit you with malice aforethought."

Complainant (suspiciously): "It's a good tryin' to make me contradict myself, suv'nor, I said he hit me with a hammer, and that I stick to through thick and thin."

"There's only one good thing about that young puppy that came to see you last night," said the irascible father, "and that is his healthy."

"I'm surprised to hear you admit that much," replied the dutiful daughter.

"I wouldn't except for the fact that last night I heard you say, 'Oh George, how could you nose it?'"

A Good "Gad" Payer.

A tramp applied to a lady for work and was given some carpets to beat. He did the job so well that she commended him for it.

"You must have beaten carpets frequently to be such an expert," she said.

"Never beat a carpet before in my life, jady: I've been a school teacher," he answered promptly.

Top of the Morning.

Smell of the woods in the morning: The sun shines gold through the trees, And the heavens are filled with music From the lips of the wide-eyed breeze.

And who's for a plunge in the water? A swim in the laughing lake? Be quick! There is breakfast to follow And there still is the fire to make.

I'm in! What a splash! Are you ready? Who, who would be lazy asleep When all of the wide world is calling With the lure of the lake blue and deep?

So come, that's the stuff, all together, Swim with a stroke true and straight To the boat and the first back, the winner— Great! But swimming is great!

The first back the first, one to break the fat! The trail once again and the fun— The day lies alluring before us, And the morning is only begun!

ORGANIZED LABOR

HEAR GOOD ADVICE

Secretary of Labor Wilson Counsels Convention at Atlantic City to Act Cautiously on Mooney Affair.

Bulletin—Atlantic City, N. J., June 13.—Secretary of Labor Wilson addressing the convention of the American Federation of Labor today counsels organized labor not to participate in the proposed national strike for the release of Thomas Mooney, convicted of complicity in the San Francisco bomb plot. He said the government was investigating the evidence in the case with a view to granting Mooney a new trial and that workmen could not properly constitute themselves a jury to try him.

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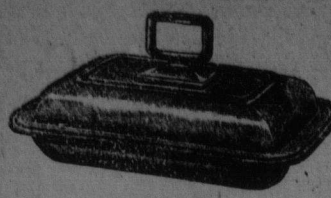
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