

The St. John Standard

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

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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.\$10.00 per year

Advertising Rates:
Contract Display..... 4c. per line
Classified11.3c. per word
Inside Readers 75c. per line
Outside Readers 85c. per line
(Agate measurement.)

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1922.

"A GROUP OF EXPLOITERS"

The Times is doing better and better every day. The business men of the City who did not approve of the proposal to rush it into an expenditure of a couple of millions on an experiment, and who were on Tuesday condemned by our contemporary for having made St. John "about the most expensive place in Canada in which to live," are now described by it as "a group of exploiters."

These 1120 business men in King's, Queen's and Duke's Wards—which include practically all the leading business houses in the City—will be delighted to know that The Times has such an excellent opinion of them. We don't of course know, but we would think that even The Times would not deny that with a few exceptions practically all the leading mercantile establishments are in the three wards named, and it would seem to be mighty strange that the owners of these establishments, most of whom also live in these wards, did not flatter themselves with the idea of being "exploited" by the City. If the proposal of Mayor Schofield was so infinitely rotten as The Times maintains it is, how came 1120 of our leading business men in these wards to support it? Surely they have an interest—

—if at the worst, a selfish one—in the general well-being of the City and any plans that may be suggested for increasing it! And they might also be trusted, we should say, to reject any plan that was not in the City's general interest.

It won't do. The Times might just as well come from under cover, and cease its silly attempt to hide behind its very transparent screen of alleged civic betterment. Everybody is perfectly well aware that our contemporary is merely a puppet which comports itself in accordance with the manner in which its owner pulls the strings. Its instructions have been to create a false issue and magnify it all it would stand, just to satisfy its owner's thirst for vengeance because he was not allowed to do just what he pleased with the Power Company. And now those leading citizens who were not disposed to back him up in this little scheme are dubbed by The Times as "a group of exploiters," "who have made St. John one of the most expensive places in Canada in which to live." Well, at least they haven't so far admitted having made their offices clearing houses for political graft transactions, nor as acting as treasurers of graft funds.

ORIENTAL BARGAINING.

Squabbles at Genoa over the terms to be granted Russia need not be taken too tragically. The Bolsheviks are great bargainers, and Russia is as much an Asiatic as a European country, with an Oriental side which runs to vivid imagination when the matching of wits begins; to ask several times as much as they expect to get is a mere matter of routine. There is plenty of bluffing on the side of the Western Powers also, so that we need not be entirely discouraged because a committee throws up its hands and adjourns sine die. Both sides want a settlement, and each side expects the other to make large concessions rather than let the negotiations lapse. Thus the scene takes on much of the aspect of an Oriental bazaar, with the outcries and wrangling of hands converted into inspired press dispatches. The bargain may be hard to strike, but if both sides want to do business terms will be agreed upon sooner or later unless the conference is wrecked.

Danger of this now comes chiefly from the side of the French, and how seriously Premier Lloyd George takes it was shown in his interview replying to the speech made Monday by Premier Poincaré. The declarations in this speech, he said, were made without consultation with the Allies, and were not calculated to improve co-operation. Confirmation is lacking of the report that M. Barthou is to insist upon the terms laid down by Premier Poincaré in his speech, but it is clear that the uncompromising utterances at Bar-le-Duc have made a painful impression at Genoa. Yet so hopeful a beginning has been made there that France may well hesitate to take the responsibility of wrecking the Conference. It would probably be to the end of the Bismarck, and would leave France rather terribly alone in a crushed world.

The national taxation in the United Kingdom is \$129 per head, in France \$121 per head, in the United States \$115 in Italy \$115, and in Germany \$104. If the Allies were to collect taxes in Germany to the rate the British people voluntarily pay, the whole war debt might be wiped out in a comparatively short time.

WANT MORE PREFERENCE.

The British West Indies are considerably agitated by the prospect of exclusionist tariff duties in the United States. Sugar and other products of Cuba and Porto Rico have had a preference in the American market, but the new tariff bill will increase this to such an extent that Jamaican, Barbadian, Trinidad and Guiana products will be almost prohibited. The islands will have to look to Canada and Britain mainly as export markets for their sugar, cocoa, bananas, spices, hardwoods, lime, etc. The increase in the British preference is very much desired by these units of the Empire.

The British Government sent a special commission of investigation to the West Indies last winter, to ascertain what measures could be adopted to increase trade with them, and to foster the imperial spirit. The usual demands for better cable and shipping facilities were emphasized, and as the Mail and Empire points out, it was shown that there is little shipping service between the various British units. Jamaica communicates with some of them via New York or Halifax. Montserrat and Nevis have no cable communication at all. Scattered apart in the great area of the Caribbean Sea, mostly, the colonies, which are mainly administered by British Crown officials, have different forms of government, and there is no community spirit, on account of lack of adequate communication. The special agreement made by the colonies with Canada in 1920, giving extra preference on their products in the Canadian market, and establishing a much better steamship service, has helped wonderfully in encouraging the tendency of the colonists to look to the Empire for commercial help. Jamaica alone has seemed to put most reliance on keeping her share of the American market.

The Canadian Government Merchant Marine went extensively into the carrying trade between Canada and the West Indian ports, and established a passenger accommodation on some of its ships. These lost money rapidly. However, if the new tariff goes into effect in Washington, West Indian business will be forced to seek Canadian and British channels, and another step in the consolidation of Empire trade will have been made.

IRELAND'S ONE DAY STRIKE.

While the one day strike in Southern Ireland was only a gesture it was an important gesture. It was planned as a nation-wide protest against bloodshed and disorder. The Free State leaders favored it and the Republicans were against it. The result was unmistakable. Business lay lifeless all day, yet there was no fighting although it was the sixth anniversary of the Easter rising.

The strike will not end the trouble between the Free State Government and the irremediables; the brutal murder of General Adamson in Athlone is evidence of that. But the success of the strike is significant of the general feeling in the Free State counties. The people want peace. Nothing stands in the way of peace except the comparatively few young army men who make De Valera's hollow phrases the excuse for insurrection.

After the heartening demonstration of Monday's strike Collins should feel justified in proceeding to show the power and dignity of the State of which he is the head.

The passing away of the Hon. F. P. Thompson yesterday morning not only creates a vacancy in the representation of New Brunswick in the Senate, but it robs the Province of one of its most widely known and respected citizens. Born and brought up in the County of York, the deceased gentleman early began to take an active interest in public affairs, beginning public life as a member of the Municipal Council of his County, later becoming one of its representatives in the Legislature, afterwards a member of the Legislative Council, and finally achieving the highest honor as a member of the Dominion Senate. Success in public life did not spell him, as it frequently does some men, and through it all he remained the urbane and approachable courteous gentleman. His business interests were wide and various, and he made a success of them; and although of late years he has not been so actively engaged in the prosecution of them, his death will create a void that will come deep regret among his large circle of business associates and friends.

A convention of bespectacled husbands is in session near Bradford, England. It is to be hoped, says the Ottawa Journal, that the men among the delegates are numerous.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Is There a Change of Heart?
(London Daily Mail.)
There are certainly indications that Lenin, Trotsky, and Bukharin and Litvinoff are finding their present position most uncomfortable. There are also indications that they want to hand them British money, as their own store of state gold is running short; and that they would like to have our goods—if they could get them for nothing, or if we were so simple as to finance their purchases by loans and advances. But as to indications of any real change of attitude or of any return to good faith and honesty on their part—were are they?

The Symbol of Militarism.
(New York World.)
That army on the Rhine is the foundation of militarism in Europe. Legally it is there to execute clauses of a treaty that cannot be fully executed. Actually it is there not only to collect money, but to keep a stranglehold on the industry of the Continent at the behest of French big business. It cannot be dislodged justly without the consent by France to a revision of several articles of the Treaty of Versailles. And since that army is the agent of the business interests that the present French Government serves, it is clear enough why M. Poincaré will not permit discussion of the Treaty of Versailles.

A Voice by Post.
(Manchester Guardian.)
From America, home of mechanical miracles, comes the news of a gramophone record that can be thrown on the floor and stamped on. It sounds like the best thing that could happen to some of them, but that is to reckon without the real significance of the invention. The point is that the new record is flexible, and a certain amount of knocking about does not disfigure it. From this fact proceeds an even more interesting piece of information. The hand-written letter, we are told, is doomed; why worry to put pen to paper when the very sound of the words as you speak them can be recorded, pushed into an envelope, and sent through the post without damage? It might certainly make for clarity in long-distance intercourse. "The written word remains," but the spoken one often has it for the finer shades of meaning.

Boy Immigrants.
(Perth, Australia, Western Mail.)
The adult immigrant, as an asset, has some disadvantages from which the youthful newcomer is almost, if not wholly, free. The man of mature age who has made himself in a new country, is faced with conditions that are novel to him. He will find, for example, that his knowledge of agricultural methods, as gained in his own country, is of little use in the new one. He does not enable him to cope successfully with the conditions in his new environment. He finds, in short, that he has a great deal to learn of his new life. The adult immigrant, in the natural course of things, has before him a much shorter number of years of usefulness in his new home than a youth. The boy immigrant, on the other hand, has no such disadvantages. His age may be regarded as a guarantee of many years of useful work; he has no store of unsuitable information to get rid of.

Old Times Have Changed.
(London Times.)
There was a time when our fathers did not debate politics or the law with their wives. They would rather listen attentively when their womenfolk chose to talk of the men and manners of the day. They understood that her detachment from the actual struggle gave her a position to which men could not aspire. She spoke, in a sense, for the future; in another sense her praise or blame amounted to a re-estimation of character in terms of values more enduring than political expediency. It was this detachment of women which made small-talk both interesting and considerable. No man of any importance could escape its adder purge; bluntness or bombast withered quickly under it. The place hunter, the crafty fellow, the mere babblers soon found their level among the dames whose quick eyes discerned the man under the actor's cloak. Now if a woman still, in her heart, disdains the man she does not give him away, for she is committed to a party, a policy, which is his party, his policy. Argument has taken the place of epigram.

"Field Punishment No. 1."
(London Daily News.)
It would be interesting to know whether the War Office Committee sought the opinion of soldiers and officers when it decided to retain as an integral part of Army Field Punishment No. 1 the revolting practice of tying the offender as if he were a ferocious animal to the wheel of a wagon in the presence of comrades. Officers of high rank, thinking in pre-war terms, may still regard this disciplinary action as good for the Army and the individual soldier. But a very large number of regimental officers who had to inflict the punishment and to enforce it during the late war hold an entirely opposite view. It is common knowledge among soldiers that in many cases this feature of P. No. 1 was deliberately omitted in practice by officers who knew the risk they were running, but whose humanity was not restricted by custom from such men, as in our own, the practice is harmful and degrading, and quite out of keeping with the modern spirit in the promotion of true military discipline.

O, Promise Me.
Kind Old Lady—There is stepson. Now, promise me you will not go to that public house over the way and spend it.

Thirty Threes—A promise, lady. But is there any special one you'd like me to patronize?

Skin Troubles
—Soothed—
With Cuticura

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Puds Simkins was wawking to skool, wawking extra slow on account of it being such a grate day we didnt feel like wawking there at all, me saying, O, this is a peach of a day all site, feel that breeze, would you, listen to those birds, would you.

Who ever invented skool on a day like this? sed Puds. And we kepp on wawking and wishing we was wawking some place else, and after a while Puds sed, Hay, I tell you lets wait, and I sed, Wait? and he sed, Lets toss up a cent weather to cut skool this afternoon or not, if it comes heads we'll go and if it comes tales we wont.

O, all rite, it wont be our fault if it comes tales, it will jest be a axident, I sed, and Puds sed, Sure, we was willing to go if it came heads, wasent we?

And he took a cent out of his pants pocket and tossed it up saying, Heads we go tales we dont, and it came down heads, me saying, Aw deck, thats a derty trick, well I tell you lets wat, lets make it the best out of it.

All rite, thats a good idee, sed Puds, and he tossed it up agen and wat did it come down but heads agen, Puds saying, Well, we'll try it jest once more, we'll give it a chance.

And he tossed it up agen and it came down heads agen as if that was all it knew, me saying, Aw good nite, toss it up jest once more to make it a even number, this will be the last.

Wich it was, on account of coming down tales, and me and Puds quick started to wawk out to the park, me saying, Well, it was pure luck, it aint our fault, and Puds saying, The cent did it all rite, nobody cant say is wasent jest luck.

THE LAUGH LINE

Modern Expectations.
Blubb—"There is always room at the top."
Neville—"Yes, but the majority of people are always waiting for a lift to take them up."

Gastronomical.
"I think the enemy has got the range, captain," said the officer of the day.
"How in the world are we to cook our dinner, then?" replied the captain, absent-mindedly.

Thoughtful!
"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "Isn't it a pity that the morning newspapers are so much behind them?"
"In what respect?"
"Why they never print the name of the winner of a horse race until the next day, when it is too late to bet."

Queer Optimism.
He was an optimistic soul and a sportsman. His gall, whom he infected with his enthusiasm, followed his tips blindly, with more often than not disastrous results.
"See what you've done!" wailed one of his friends, after a race. "And you told me I could put my shirt on that horse."
"And did you?"
"Yes, worse luck."
"Well, then," replied the optimistic sportsman, "see the money you'll save on laundry bills!"

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