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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1920.

"ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPOKE."

The chairman of the Empire Press Union, Mr. Robert Donald, makes the suggestion that the universities of the English-speaking world should get together and confer with the object of establishing an institute which would set a standard of spoken and written English, and do for the English language what the French 'Académie' has done for French. The suggestion is timely, and any body that gathered together to carry it out would find plenty of scope for its labors.

In the course of his address on the subject, Mr. Donald remarked that the Canadian and American universities gave more attention to the study of English, both in the written and spoken word, than do the British universities themselves. This is but natural; it is only in the English universities and among educated Englishmen that pure English is to be found. Nothing annoys an educated Englishman much more than to come over to this side of the Atlantic and listen to the "English as she is spoke" by some people, and then to be told by them that he himself has such an "awful English accent" that they cannot understand him!

Then, again, there is the matter of spelling certain English words. For instance, "programme," "catalogue," all words ending in "our," and many other words. These words are invariably misspelled on this side, not so much perhaps by the dropping of "ne," "re," and the "u." No doubt these letters are unnecessary in each case, the words can be pronounced properly without them; but the fact remains that they are English words, and there is a proper way of spelling them, which no other country has any right to alter. All these, and all other English words, have certain derivations, which stand in danger of being lost sight of if the spelling is unwarrantably changed. We fear our American friends are the chief sinners in this mutilating the English language; if they are so busy hustling around after the almighty dollar that they have no time to spare to write English words out in full as they should be written, but must clip them short, we suggest that they begin with taking one "i" out of dollar, which is not an English word at all. "Dolar" will serve just as well as "dollar."

BOLSHEVIC SYMPATHIZERS.

A conference of British Labor leaders has served notice on the Government that it will not tolerate a war made by the Allied Powers upon Soviet Russia on account of Poland, and that in the event of any such war being entered upon "the whole industrial power of organized workers will be used to defeat it." The fact that the Soviet Government of Russia is Bolshevist, pure and simple, appears to be more a matter for sympathy than anything else with these labor gentlemen; and it may perhaps be doubted whether, if it came to a "show-down," they would, after all, act as they have declared they would. But that there exists a large group of Radical "direct actionists" has been proven in the Trades and Labor Congress. Men like Robert Smillie, head of the Miners, frankly want a Soviet, and would shout with joy at having their weapon of disruption put into their hand. Left to work itself out, the menacing feature of the British labor unrest may be peacefully eliminated. Any candle will burn itself out ultimately. But war with the Bolsheviki on the slender grounds of European pacification, would at once open up, and furiously inflame the class wounds now slowly healing. The Bolsheviki have allies in Britain who would not hesitate at treachery.

But it is a curious fact that the British friends of Lenin and Trotsky have an entire misconception of the Soviet movement. They would not stomach Russian "rule of the proletariat," but seem to think they could devise a substitute acceptable to Anglo-Saxon tastes. The British

Labor Mission to Russia came home strongly against Communism, as practiced in Russia, but still the Ramsay MacDonalds, Hendersons, and other Radicals yelp every time the Russian Reds get hurt. One of the Labor party, Bertrand Russell, a well-known writer, emphasizes the point:

"Friends of Russia here think of the dictatorship of the proletariat as merely a new form of representative government, in which only working men and women have votes, and the constituencies are purely occupational, not geographical. They think the 'proletariat' means 'proletarian,' but 'dictatorship' does not mean 'dictatorship.' This is the opposite of the truth. When a Russian Communist speaks of dictatorship, he means the word literally, but when he speaks of a proletarian dictatorship, he means the word in a proletarian sense. He means the 'class-conscious' part of the proletariat—i.e., the Communist party. He includes people by no means proletarian (such as Lenin and Trotsky) who have the right opinions, and he excludes such wage earners as have not the right opinions, whom he classifies as lackeys of the bourgeoisie. The Communist who sincerely believes the party creed is convinced that private property is the root of all evil; he is so certain of this that he shrinks from no measure, however harsh, which seems necessary for constructing and preserving the Communist state."

Opposition is crushed without mercy, and without shrinking from the methods of the Czarist police, many of whom are employed at their old work.

The Mail and Empire, in discussing this subject, draws attention to the fact that Lenin has recently sent a message to the Red sympathizers in Britain urging "heavy civil war," and a complete revolution. He believes that the streets must flow with blood to have a real revolution. These urgings show how little Lenin understands the Anglo-Saxon mind. The bond of professional sympathy between the Reds of Russia and the Reds of Britain is based entirely on what each faction imagines the other to be. Both are victims of illusions. All they have in common is a hatred of the existing order of representative Government, and a personal ambition to establish a Government that, historically, would be about the same as the Directorate that sprang up in the French Revolution.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

A short time ago we referred in these columns to some opinions expressed by a gentleman from one of the Southern States on the apparently neglected condition of agriculture in this province, according to his observation as he travelled by train from Halifax to this city. Now along comes Sir John Aird, the General Manager of the Bank of Commerce, who makes the same kind of criticism. In another part of this issue will be found a report of his remarks, and most people will know enough of conditions to realize that he speaks no more or less than the truth in what he says.

It is undoubtedly a fact that most of the agricultural land in the province is only half cultivated. Farmers will not keep sufficient live stock to properly fertilize it, and the result is that the soil is in nothing like as good condition as it easily might be got into were better farming practices followed.

Then, again, there are far too many farms not being cultivated at all, but left desolate and growing up with weeds. Yet nothing is being done either to attract our own young men to settle upon them, or to bring in other men from other countries where farms cannot be picked up so easily or so cheaply as they can here. It was reported a week or two ago that the Provincial Government intended to close the London office. They might just as well do so for all the good it does—or ever did for matter of that. Its chief function has appeared to be to keep a visitors' book so that New Brunswickers who happened to be "over there" could call and append their autographs. As a medium for getting prospective emigrants from England to turn their steps towards this province, the London office has been a conspicuous failure.

Sir John Aird appears to be a firm believer in the desirability of Maritime Union, in which case he thinks Newfoundland would join in with the three maritime provinces. This might be a good thing for the new province that would be formed, but it is not quite clear just where the Ancient Colony would gain much advantage by throwing in her lot with Canada. Our own Maritime Provinces have difficulties enough in endeavoring to get a square deal from the Dominion Government as it is. What a stranger coming in might expect to get is another matter.

THE HUMANITIES.

"The greatest men," says a modern writer, "are those who never lose touch with the humanities." A man

may disregard these for a time and by his brilliant gifts achieve his way to success, but in the very hour of that success he is forgotten.

With all his vicious habits, the sight of Robert Burns, revealing the soul of his people, lives after him. Dickens has defied death because his art is founded on the ordinary emotions of ordinary people.

The modern author, the modern playwright, the modern artist too often struts at something removed from all this. He forgets that art should illuminate life; and life is never commonplace to the real artist.

It is the recognition of the greatness all about us—an understanding of the humanities—that will give us a different conception of existence.

Mr. Hanna maintains that the increased prices due to the raising of the pay of the railway men, and the subsequent increase in rates, will be so small as hardly to be noticed. This, says the Montreal Gazette, at least is a more reasonable statement than that made by the U. S. railway manager who declared that the dearer cost of carrying goods would really make for cheaper living. As a matter of fact, the general public will have to pay just the difference between the new and old rates, which will amount to scores of millions of dollars annually. The money can come from no other source.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Plenty to Say.
 (Maudslayi Free Press.)
 "Those people who used to wonder what the world would have to talk about when the Great War was over were worrying themselves unnecessarily. There appears to be more talk than ever."

Busybodies.
 (Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)
 "The most restless men and women of the world are those who believe they have a mission to interfere in the affairs of other people. They are never satisfied with their own lives and are not willing to allow other people to be satisfied."

The Busy Bee.
 (Toronto Globe.)
 "The Manchester Guardian quotes experts as saying that this is to be a good season for honey, and it adds that many people will welcome the news, though few realize the enormous effort a single pound of honey necessitates on the part of the bees. 'In a pound jar,' the Guardian explains, 'there is the concentrated essence of over 60,000 flowers. It is calculated that to make a pound of clover-honey the bees must take nectar from 62,000 blossoms and make 2,750,000 visits in the process. Over the journey from the hive to the flowers and back runs to two miles, so that the making of a pound of honey entails journeys aggregating over 5,500,000 miles. When it is remembered that a single colony of bees will produce from sixty to eighty pounds of honey in a season it is clear that the 'busy bee' is well named."

Most Prosperous Province.
 (Vancouver World.)
 "Which province of the Dominion has the greatest wealth per head of the population? Most Canadians would be surprised to learn that it is the isolated province of Prince Edward Island. Agriculture and fox-breeding have brought about this happy state of things for the 'Red Islanders.' Well over 50 per cent of the population live on the farm. They produce almost all they require to support existence and there are no large towns to lure the youth away from the pleasures as well as the labors of country life.

Prince Edward Island is not only the wealthiest province but also the most populous, proportionately to area.

Uncle Ike back on the farm, writes that the women folk, havin' concluded spring house cleaning last week, will start the fall housecleanin' early next week, and he is figurin' the comparative expense of him a man to beat the old rugs or buy new rugs entire.

A BIT OF VERSE

CONSIDER THE LILIES.

Consider the lilies how they grow,
 Charming, unselfish, unobtrusively so,
 Sacred and holy, by God made fast;
 All hail, the queen of flowers without
 thy compare.

Thou art our natal flower, adorns the
 bride's fair bower,
 Painted by angel touch, sunshine and
 things that be,
 Emblem of that life which knows no
 death.

Consider the lilies, they neither toil
 nor spin,
 Pure as the crystal, untarnished by
 sin,
 Bright as the evening star, when night
 shadows fall,
 Queen of all hearts, the loveliest of all,
 Dainty of figure, immortal of name,
 To artists an ideal, a goddess of fame,
 To youth, to the aged, thou a charm
 dost impart.

All love thee, admire thee, enchanter
 of hearts.

Consider the lilies by nature arrayed,
 Kings in their glory and pomp displayed,
 Considered by God, who made all
 things that be,
 Incomparable to thee, in true dignity,
 Thy pureness and fragrance is known
 over the earth.
 A heritage of beauty, we hail thee at
 birth;
 We hope for thy presence in the future
 that be.

In the land, of the lilies, God's country.
 —James A. Brain.

THE LAUGH LINE

Vain Call for a Life Line.
 "Asked the bees for a clue yesterday,
 Told him I found it hard to keep
 my head above water, that I was being
 swamped with bills and was in danger
 of going under if he didn't come to my
 rescue."

"What did he say?"
 "Told me it was a business he was
 running, not a life-saving station."

Done For.

"Does your daughter sing the popular
 airs?"
 "Yes, but I fear that ends her popularity,
 at least among the neighbors."

Benny's Note Book

BY LES PAPE

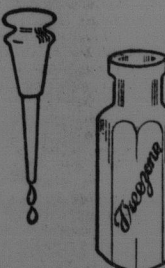
The fellows was setting on my front steps, me feeling pretty bum on account of most of them saying they was going to vote for Sid Hunt instead of me for captain of the Invisibles, and the skinny kid that delivers papers every afternoon went past and handed me the paper on account of knowing I was the one lived there, and I looked at the front page and the first thing I saw was my own name, saying in big letters, Gallant Fireman Rescues 6. Benny Potts, of Engine Co. No. 8. Proved Himself a Hero.

Hurray, hurray, I got my name in the paper, I yelled. Ware, ware? all the fellows said. And they looked and saw it themselves, and Leroy Shooter read the hole thing out loud telling how Benjamin Potts kept on carrying ladies and children down a ladder till there wasent any more left, and every time he came to my name the fellows yelled, Hurray, hurray. Me keeping on feeling braver and braver and Sid Hunt keeping on looking jelliseer and jelliseer, saying, Aw, was the idea of all the excitement, I bet I could show you my name in the paper too if I wanted to take the trouble, and I said, Wats the matter, you jelliseer? and he said, Jelliseer nothing, and I said, Well then go ahead and show us, I dare you, I dubble dare you. And Sid looked all throo the paper and all he found was a man named Sidney Hogan being proterated on account of the beet, and I said, You mean to compare a man being proterated with the beet to a fireman rescuing 6 ladies and children all at one time? Who you going to vote for, fellows?

You, you, hurray, yelled all the fellows.
 Being how I was elected captain of the Invisibles.

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First Lesson a Success.

"Where's Jackie?" asked Mr. Brown upon his return from business one evening.
 "Gone to bed," was his wife's reply.
 "Not ill, I hope?"
 "No, I sent him to bed as a punishment for swearing."
 "Swearing? I'll teach the young rascal to swear!"
 Without waiting to switch on the light, the angry father dashed up the stairs to interview the culprit, only to fall over a loose stair rod and bump his chin against the edge of a step. Instantly Mr. Brown became very quiet, and when the air had cleared sufficiently for his wife's voice to be heard from the hall she called to him:
 "Better come down stairs; I'm sure Jackie has heard enough of your first lesson."

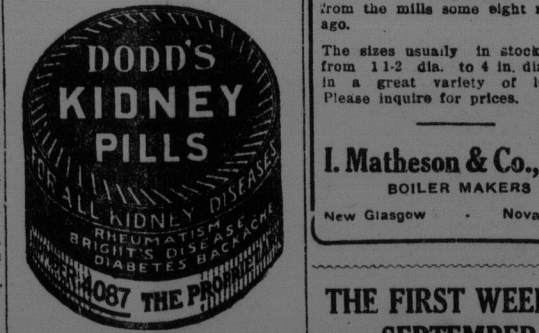
His Problem.

Uncle Ike back on the farm, writes that the women folk, havin' concluded spring house cleaning last week, will start the fall housecleanin' early next week, and he is figurin' the comparative expense of him a man to beat the old rugs or buy new rugs entire.

Figuratively.

"Have you ever been up in the air?"
 "Many times, many times, my boy."
 "Did you drive the plane yourself?"
 "Plane? I never was in an aeroplane in my life, but I've been up in the air just the same."

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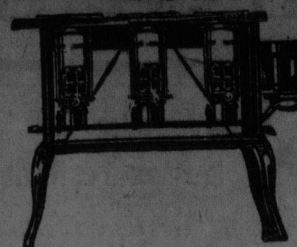
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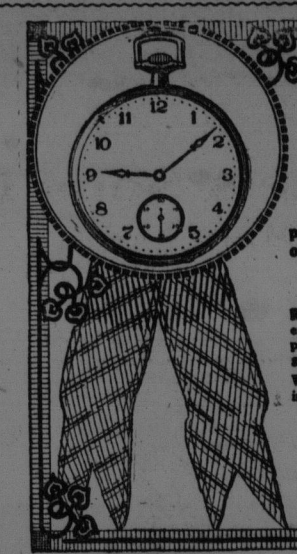
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LEAVE ALONE

MY

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OBITUARY.

Mrs. Ina McArthur.

Amherst, Aug. 12.—The funeral of the late Mrs. Ina McArthur, whose death occurred at Harvey, Albert county, N. B., on Sunday, was held here on Wednesday from the residence of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. E. Long, 19 Robie street.

D. C. Kaine, of the First Baptist church, where the deceased has been a long and faithful attendant, conducted the service which was very impressive.

The beautiful floral offerings included: Pillow, Family; spray, Mrs. William Ferguson and Mrs. James Edgett cut flowers, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Gosner; wreath, P. D. King; spray, Esther and Hazel McDonald; spray, Mrs. Walter Chapman; spray, Mr. and Mrs. John Fortune; wreath, A. F. of Labor; spray, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. King; spray, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lund; spray, Mrs. Ella McEllan; spray, True Blue Lodge; spray, Mr. and Mrs. George McKell; sheaf of wheat, Four members of the Bible class of First Baptist church; spray, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eaton. Interment took place in the Highland cemetery.

The deceased, relict of the late A. R. McArthur, was born in Roxbury, N. B. In early life she moved to Harvey, N. B., where she remained until coming here fifteen years ago.

She was a highly respected, lovable, Christian woman, with hosts of friends who deeply sympathize with the sorrowing family.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. at the residence of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. E. Long, 19 Robie street.

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