

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1921.

### THE ALLIED PREMIERS IN CONFERENCE

The Conference of Allied Premiers which is now taking place in London will be called upon to deal with some matters of the highest importance. The boundaries of Turkey must be fixed anew, though it is not anticipated that any great difficulty will be experienced in this regard. Greater difficulty may arise in regard to the disposal of the German reparations problem, the settlement of which is not unlikely to cause serious differences of opinion.

This is a matter upon which the people of France feel very strongly, and they are firmly determined that there shall be no deviation from the scheme framed for German payments to extend over a period not exceeding 42 years, a period which they consider ample for German needs. They maintain that they will make no further concessions, and that it is now up to Germany to refuse or to accept and in the former case it will be the duty of France to compel payment, even if she has to do so alone. And they add, the Allies must be either with them or against them; there is no middle course.

Arrangements have already been made, it is said, by the French authorities for a military campaign against Germany, in case of the latter's refusal to carry out the terms agreed on. No reduction in the amount decided upon for Germany to pay will be considered, though in case of necessity some changes might be agreed upon in the method of payment provided there be no change in the amount. The French people are not inclined to put too much faith or dependence upon Mr. Lloyd George's declaration that Germany must pay; they think that he is amenable to German will.

In connection with the settlement of the new boundaries of Turkey, it is said that the British and French views are also not altogether in accord. France is tired of the Turkish question, and is said to have agreed with the Nationalist party in that country, a course which would deprive Greece of some of the territory given her under the Sevres treaty. There were suggestions some time ago that Mr. Lloyd George was somewhat inclined to the same course, but it is now said that he is not, owing to some representations recently made to him by M. Venizelos, to which he attributes considerable weight. Although this statesman was driven out by the Greeks not long ago, he seems likely to come again to the rescue of Greek territory. His country needs him, and its people are beginning to find out that they made a mistake in discarding him. Moreover Venizelos has come to an understanding with the Greek cabinet, not with the Greek King, and has made it clear to the Allies that Greece is quite able to clear up the Turkish situation without their help. As a result of this Premier Lloyd George is said to be in favor of letting the Greeks have a free hand, which is likely to result in a satisfactory to any arrangement with the Nationalist party and their pro-German associates.

### IRISH MATTERS

Changing his political coat and crossing over to the other side of the House does not appear to have brought Lord Robert Cecil any great accession of wisdom or enabled him to see some matters in any clearer light than he previously did. He now wants to know what is the cause of the increased unrest in Ireland, and proposes the appointment of a commission to investigate recent events. If Lord Robert does not know what is the cause of all the trouble to which he refers, we imagine he is about the only man in Britain who is so lamentably ignorant. Any Irish agitator will give him all the information he wants on the subject, and there should be no difficulty experienced by him in finding out. They are extending their activities to England and so he need not have to look very far. According to information given in the House by the Irish Secretary, a memorandum has been captured at Sinn Féin headquarters which deals with an appropriation to the "Irish republican army" of £30,000, mostly from Irish-American citizens. The document emphasizes the importance of large scale operations "abroad," and suggests Liverpool as holding out the greatest hopes. Staff officers, it added, should be given a free hand, and it proposes the destruction of large ships and buildings by the cutting of telegraph and telephone lines and signalling systems, "whereby trains and trams could be wrecked, and the destruction of farms."

"Operations should be directed to encouraging dissipation and incitement to 'loose' living," the document continues, "and the officer in charge should not be hampered by considerations of preserving life."

What a nice little bunch these Sinn

### Peinors are. A new crop of "Kirk's Lambs" should be raised to deal with them.

The 5th April is the date now suggested for the coming into force of the Irish Parliament, but it is said to be very unlikely that any steps will be taken in Southern Ireland to elect a Parliament at all. If this should prove to be the case, no further consideration should be given to that part of the country. If those in charge of the Home Rule agitation were genuinely anxious to see any improvement in present conditions, they would take every advantage possible of the powers which are vested in the new Parliament; and by showing to the world that they are capable of governing, they would earn in a few years time, much extended powers. By their continued agitation and barbarous atrocities, they are merely inviting reprisals on the part of the duly constituted authorities.

### THE BRITISH ANTI-DUMPING BILL

The British anti-dumping bill is one which merits and should receive the most careful attention in Canada. Great Britain is a free trade country, and Canada is a protectionist country, but the relation of the buying power of an ounce of gold is very similar, and it is in view of this condition that Great Britain has introduced an anti-dumping bill.

The Winnipeg Tribune asks whether an anti-dumping bill is a concession to the protectionist principle. Very likely it may be used to introduce the protective principle into the legislation of Great Britain, or the attempt may be made to do so. In itself, however, an anti-dumping measure, as it is intended in Great Britain, does not touch the principle of protection.

The object of protection is not to make the people of a country go without the articles upon which a duty is levied. It is to stimulate the production of articles which it is possible to the value of the article is thus retained by the people of the country.

The object of an anti-dumping bill is to compel the people to go without articles of foreign manufacture which they can get along without, and cannot afford to pay for. It is a measure of compulsory self-denial.

Incidental protection there must be in an anti-dumping bill, for the reason that if there is a strong demand for an article which it is possible to the value of the article is thus retained by the people of the country.

Many of the importations of Canada are of a necessary character and essential to the well being of the people, and to their productive activity; but many are not in this category at all. They range from a zone in which abstinence would not be hurtful, to one in which it would be bracing and beneficial from other viewpoints than the mere conservation of wealth.

The net result of the Restigouche Election petition is that the Government will have a majority of one in the House under any circumstances, the number of Opposition supporters being reduced by two in consequence of the election being declared void. Anything much more outrageous than the conditions under which the election took place can scarcely be imagined. The Sheriff, who is an appointee of the Foster Government, on the nomination of Mr. A. T. LeBlanc, apparently did not know anything about the duties he would be called upon to undertake and had not sufficient interest in his office to care whether he found out or not. However, efficiency is not one of the qualifications that the Government holds up in the case of its appointees to places of emolument.

The Farmers and Independents who were elected to the Legislature are apparently firm believers in Mr. Fielding's doctrine that a platform is only to get in on. These gentlemen owe their elections wholly to the aid received from Opposition votes, the understanding being that they would not support the Government. Now, however, some of them have announced their intention to support the Government; as one of them put it, "that thousand a year looks too good to me to vote the Government out."

### WHAT OTHERS SAY

**The Gritter Smitten.**  
 "Gritter Smitten" was the campaign slogan of the socialist forces in the South African election. Another case where the gritter was smitten—Vancouver Province.

**Quebec Saving Wood.**  
 The Province of Quebec is to establish demonstration farms in every county. Quebec may not be saying much these days, but there is a good deal of evidence that she is going ahead saving wood at a pretty lively clip industrially and agriculturally.—Montreal Free Press.

**A Different Case.**  
 The German government in 1917 told the Reichstag that after the Germans should have won the war the Allies would have to pay an indemnity of 500,000,000,000 gold marks and the Hun members thumped their desks with glee. The Allies are asking half that sum from Germany and the Hun government complains of such hideous demands.—Calgary Herald.

**The Tremblay Decision.**  
 In brief the Privy Council judgment establishes marriage as a civil contract, to be annulled only for causes prescribed by the civil law. It is on this solid foundation that the marriage law must rest in every Province. It will still be open to the Roman Catholic Church, or any other church, to discipline or excommunicate members who do not conform to its marriage decrees, but it cannot impugn the civil validity of any marriage legally performed. Their Lordships make this point perfectly plain. Whether persons choose to recognize ecclesiastical decrees as to marriage or not is a matter of individual choice which concerns themselves alone, but such decrees can have no civil operation. The right, however, of every religious denomination to prescribe the conditions of its own membership is not in dispute. That is an issue entirely in the realm of conscience.—Toronto Globe.

### A BIT OF VERSE

#### THE CROWN OF EMPIRE.

Oh, England of our fathers, and England of our sons,  
 Along the dark horizon line the day-dawn glory runs,  
 For empire has been ours of old, and empire ours shall be—  
 His grip is on the world today whose grip is on the sea.

Oh, England of our fathers, and England of our sons,  
 Above the roar of battling hosts, the thunder of the guns,  
 A mother's voice was calling us, we heard it overseas,  
 The blood which thus did give us life the blood we spilled for these.

Oh, England of our fathers, and England of our sons,  
 Along the dark horizon line the day-dawn glory runs,  
 For golden peace is drawing near, her path is on the sea—  
 She, grips the heart of all mankind who stands for liberty.

—Canon Scott, in the Canadian Church, Quebec, February, 1921.

### THE LAUGH LINE

**A Humble Beginning.**  
 She was an ardent suffragette and was arguing with her father about the ballot for women.  
 "Well, what are you suffragettes going to do?" inquired the father.  
 "We are going to sweep the country," she replied proudly.  
 "Well, do not despise small beginnings, my dear. Suppose you start with the dining room."

**A Valued Souvenir.**  
 "Madam," shouted the angry neighbor, "your little Cosmo has just thrown a brick through our window."  
 "That's good," replied the neighbor, beaming Cosmo's mother. "We are keeping all the little mementoes of his youthful pranks."

**A Proof of True Love.**  
 Little Edna turned to her mother, who was a widow, and said:  
 "Mama, do you really and truly love me?"  
 "Why, of course, my dear. Why do you ask?"  
 "And will you prove it to me?"  
 "Yes, if I can."  
 "Then go marry the man around the corner who keeps the candy store."

**He Didn't Think So.**  
 Mother: "There, you have a black eye, and your coat is torn to bits. How many times have I told you not to play with that bad boy Brown?"  
 Boy: "Goodness me, do I look like we've been playing?"

**Cause For Thought.**  
 "I notice that Agnes doesn't go around boring other people with her ailments as she used to."  
 "No; she met a man who cured her completely."  
 "A doctor?"  
 "Oh, no. She was telling this man some of her symptoms when he remarked, 'It's strange how many of these things affect people as they begin to grow old.' Since then she has held her tongue about them."

**Maybe They Looked.**  
 A couple of Irishmen met in the street and one of them asked:  
 "What's this I hear about Clancy?"  
 "He's been 'tysin' to asphyxiate himself."  
 "What'd he do?"  
 "He lit every gas jet in the house and sat down and waited."

**"He's crazy, your honor,"** said the policeman to the magistrate. "I found him standing at the corner scolding his wife."  
 "That doesn't prove him crazy," replied the judge.  
 "His wife wasn't there, your honor," added the policeman.

**Havana, Feb. 22.**—The Australian government is making extensive purchases of Cuban sugar, which is being shipped from various ports. It is reported that 1,000,000 sacks of sugar have been contracted for.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

### THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

**Weather.** Various winds.  
 Sports. Ed Wornick had a argument with Flatfoot the cop last Saturday on the subject of "weather." Flatfoot had say rise to keep Ed's baseball field because he was playing with it out in the street, the argument consisting of Ed Wornick saying, "Hay, these mine, and Flatfoot saying, "Maybe it was but it ain't now."

**Sleazy.** Mr. Skinny Martin and Mr. Skinny Mullin have bin saw together to match lately that now whenever they start to come up the street next to each other some member of sleazy says, "Ah, heer comes number 11."

**Financial Notes.** Puds Simkins wants to announce that he wont loan any more money to anybody till Sid Hunt and Artie Alexander each pay him back the cent they owe him.

**Pome by Skinny Martin.**  
 Herry For Nature!  
 The Chinese are a yello race  
 Like buttercups, and not blue like clover,  
 And all you haff to do is see their face  
 To know how they look all over.

**Intriguing Facks About Intriguing People.** Lew Davies' father and mother want him to take violin lessons off of a violin teacher, only Lew thinks the violin is elasy and wants to learn the drum, the result being he hasent started anything yet.

### Liberals Fighting Among Themselves

London, Feb. 23.—The by-election, which is in progress in Penistone, as a consequence of the retirement of Sidney Arnold, is a shadowy replica of the recent contest in Cardigan-shire insofar as two life-long Liberals are fighting one another, the one on behalf of the coalition Liberals and the other on behalf of the Asquith Liberals.

Sir James Hinchliffe, who represents the coalition Liberals has a long and honorable record in the social, educational and political service of the constituency, but the local conversion of Liberals refused to recognize him, and apparently at the bidding of the London headquarters of the Independent Liberals, decided to support Wm. Pringle, who formerly represented Lancashire in the House of Commons, but has since been twice rejected by other constituencies.

The coalition Liberals admit that they have a hard fight on their hands as Penistone has long been a stronghold of the old-time Liberals, who

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