

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1920.

## THE PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN.

It is reported that Sir Robert Borden will be back in his place in the House tomorrow, but what his plans for the future may be, does not appear to be definitely known as yet. One thing at any rate is certain. The Premier must either resume active command of his party and let the country see that he is once again the responsible leader, or he must make way for someone else. There is no statesman in Canada in whom the great mass of the people have so much faith and confidence as the present Prime Minister; and while there is no lack of faith and confidence in the colleagues whom he left behind to carry on the government of the country during his absence, there is also a very general feeling that the Leader of the Government should be in control and actively discharging the duties of the office.

Until it is known whether Sir Robert's health is sufficiently restored to permit him to resume, with the intention of continuing, the duties of Leader of the Government, it is idle to speculate on possible future happenings. Many momentous questions will have to be dealt with, not the least of which is the future of the present Governmental party itself. Even now a movement is on foot to carry on the government of the country on strict party lines, a meeting of Conservatives from every province in the Dominion having been held yesterday in an effort to bring about this result. That many of the old school of Liberals will cast in their lot with the Conservatives, and thus ensure the formation of a party which will carry on a government upon sound Liberal-Conservative principles, is pretty generally conceded. A party so committed could readily command the support of the whole Dominion, for, whatever their claims and assertions to the contrary may be, the fact remains that the country has no confidence in the Hon. Mackenzie King and the party led by him, or in the policies that they stand for. This is the time when Canada has to be built up, when constructive policies are needed; and so far the only policies that the Opposition party and its leader seem to have any knowledge of, are such as would bring the country to utter ruin in the course of a year or two at the most.

## FRANCE AND GERMANY.

France cannot altogether be blamed for the course she is taking regarding Germany's attitude towards her obligations under the Peace Treaty, which she is showing no inclination to carry out. Indeed, Von Hindenburg's own statement a few days ago trying to carry out the conditions of the treaty, "Would not it be possible," were his words, Germany's excuse that she cannot at present determine the amount of the indemnity she can pay, until next year's tax levy has been decided upon, is one that will scarcely carry much weight with her creditors, who not unreasonably expect that she should adjust her taxes to her liabilities, and not her liabilities to her taxes. France is naturally getting irritated on account of the non-fulfilment of the obligation imposed upon Germany to pay the cost of reconstruction of the former's devastated areas, and this will be one of the principal matters to be taken up when the Allied Conference meets at Spa in a few days time. Nothing but a firm stand on the part of the Allied statesmen will make it clear to Germany that no fooling on her part will be tolerated.

There can be no doubt that Germany is being encouraged in the attitude she is taking by the fact that the United States refused to ratify the Treaty. The present action of France is one of the effects of that refusal. France never had very much faith in the efficacy of the League of Nations, and is under no delusions as to what course Germany will take if ever she again is allowed to become a powerful nation. Clemenceau, whose strong will imposed itself, to a great degree, upon the Allies in conference, preferred the old system of political balances, but so strengthened as to give reasonable guarantees of protection against any possible attack by Germany in the future—a disposition which Clemenceau believed would be carried into effect the moment Germany felt she was strong enough. That is why Clemenceau asked for the special treaty with England and the United States, which guaranteed France against this possible danger.

France has always been an idealist, but she does not believe in the millennium on the instant. The child like faith of President Wilson was no doubt splendid; but for us the only thing the Germans understand, and force will be necessary to keep the Germans in order in the future as, assuredly, that power will seek to be re-venge. Therefore, although Clemenceau agreed to the League of Nations, he had no illusions. He did not think greatly of it. He understood the human heart. He dreaded jealousy and self-interest and the failure of all

the members of the League to function in a great crisis, such as might at any time disclose itself. Resolutions accomplished nothing of themselves. All the "whereases" in the world could have no efficacy unless the spirit of the League was one and absolutely disinterested.

Seeing, then, that, before the League of Nations had even begun its work, the United States, whose President was its author and instigator, refused to endorse its action and declined to accept any part in the agreement for keeping the world's peace, France has been compelled to take the initiative with respect to these matters in which she is particularly interested, and she cannot be blamed if she becomes somewhat insistent with regard to them. British statesmen must be presumed to know what they are doing; but any sign of weakening on their part, or any expression of a willingness to lighten Germany's load, will be eagerly seized upon by the people of that country and exploited to the limit. And France knows it.

## THE "MAGGIE MILLER."

A few days ago we referred in these columns to some complaints which had reached us of the delay in getting the ferryboat "Maggie Miller" on her route, which we were informed was a consequence of failure on the part of the owners to come to terms with the Provincial Government regarding the subsidy usually paid to the boat. For this we were taken to task by Mr. E. S. Carter, the Premier's Secretary, who thought it a pity that The Standard's editorial writer did not take more pains to acquaint himself with the facts before launching his criticisms. Mr. Carter announced that not only had the subsidy been agreed upon, but the fares also, and that an increase in the latter had been arranged for with the owners of the boat were quite satisfied.

## THE FOSTER GOVERNMENT AND RETURNED SOLDIERS.

We have received a communication from a returned soldier in which he complains of the studied manner in which the claims of men of his class are ignored by the Foster Government when appointments have to be made to public positions. We are not altogether sure that our correspondent is not taking a rather too exaggerated view of the matter; it may be that the Government has not been any too generous in this respect, but there are several instances in which ex-soldiers have been given positions, and not always on account of any special qualification they might have had.

The Foster Government is very much to blame, however, for the course they have taken regarding the closing of employment agencies. Several of these agencies had been established in this province by the Dominion Government, which, according to agreement, should have been taken over by the Provincial Government a few weeks ago. The Dominion authorities still continuing, however, to pay one-half of the cost of operating them. Owing to the failure of the Foster Government to make the necessary arrangements to carry on the work of these agencies, they have now been closed, with the result that the facilities that they afforded returned men to find employment are now denied them. This action on the part of the Government may have been dictated on the plea of so-called economy; but we have it on the authority of both the Premier himself, and of Hon. St. Venant, that economy does not count for anything so long as the convenience of the public is being served. And we have practical demonstrations, too, that even this qualification is not always kept in view.

## THE WORLD'S PAPER MONEY.

Some interesting and very significant figures bearing on the present condition of world finances were given to a meeting of New York business men the other day by the statistician of the New York National City Bank. At the beginning of the war the paper money of the world amounted to \$7,000,000,000; at the date of armistice it had increased to \$40,000,000,000, and at the present time it amounts to \$50,000,000,000—the two last sums not including paper issues of the Russian Bolshevik Government. From 1913 to 1920 the national debts of the world have grown from \$40,000,000,000 to \$285,000,000,000, while world credits, another form of inflation, have also enormously increased. In 1913 the ratio of gold to paper currency for the world was about 70 per cent.; at the

close of the war it had dropped to 14 per cent., and now it is approximately 12 per cent. World budgets are now about five times as great as before the war, while annual interest charges on national debts are about \$9,000,000,000, as against \$1,750,000,000 before the war. It is especially worthy of note that in the 18 months of peace the increase in the world's paper currency has been almost half that of the 51 months of war.

Ottawa Journal: Whether the unfortunate remark, which rightly or wrongly compromised a distinguished Brigadier-General, reads on his home life may depend upon whether the butler can keep the St. John Standard, Globe and Telegraph from being delivered at the kitchen door.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Japan and the War.  
 (Hong Kong Press.)

Japan thus, while benefitting materially by the war, has in many other directions suffered a set back. The cost of living in Japan being now as high as it is in Europe, she is losing her advantage of cheap labor without any compensatory advantage in skill, while the progress of her domestic industries has been seriously hampered. In the meantime the boom in industry and finance continues, and although warnings are heard from time to time of the possibility of a crash, such warnings are unheeded.

How to Become an Ambassador.  
 (London Free Press.)

Princes, Belgians, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Mexico and Brazil, and now Great Britain (in Sir Auckland Geddes), each has an ambassador at Washington whose wife is a native of the United States. It is intended as a delicate compliment to do so, countries in question really consider the gray mare the better horse.

Unbaited But True.  
 (New York Post.)

The women get their cut so the women is revealed and need not be proclaimed.

Sad Thing About It.  
 (New York Post.)

The editorial writer of the Standard is that while statesmen, judges, college presidents and press agents are putting them on, watchmen and bricklayers are taking them off.

Doubts Its Practicality.  
 (Kansas City Star.)

We don't exactly know what the overall campaign is for, but if it expects to bring down the price of potatoes, we doubt whether it will work. (San Francisco Chronicle.)

The Irresponsible Poet.  
 (London Daily Express.)

Inconsistency has no terrors for d'Annunzio. His latest scheme is a combination of Bolshevism and self-determination, the latter being the very principle to oppose which went to Fiume. But we must grant him poetic license.

A Liberal Education.  
 (London Daily Express.)

Give a portion of your time every day to good books, and gradually, and without it, you will find that you will supply you with the education that all men must have before they can even enter the gateway of success.

## THE LAUGH LINE

A Good Boy.  
 Teacher: How is it you were not at school yesterday, Johnny?

Johnny: "Please, sir, when I was coming to school I saw a steamroller."

Teacher: "Well, what about it?"

Johnny: "A man touched me on the shoulder and said: 'Mind that steam roller, boy, and I stood minding it all the afternoon.'"

Natural Question.  
 Young fellow: "Say, dad, what keeps us from falling off the earth when we are upside down?"

"Why, the law of gravity, of course!"

"But how did the folks start on before the law was passed?"—Pearson's Weekly.

Willie's Choice.  
 "Now, Willie," said a generous father, as he and his little son were gazing into the tailor's shop window. "I am going to buy you a new pair of trousers, and you shall choose them. Which pair do you want?"

After a moment's hesitation, the little boy said: "Please, father, may I have that pair marked 'cannot be beaten'?"

An Important Precaution.  
 "Why, Alphonse," said the wife, as she found her husband in the hall strapping up the family umbrellas as if he were about to depart on a journey. "Certainly you are not going to take all these to town with you?"

"Marguerite," he responded, firmly, "have you forgotten that this evening we are having friends to supper?"

"But, Alphonse! Our guests would never steal!"

"Steal? Who said they would? No! But they would recognise the initials on the handles!"

Short of Breath.  
 Could Hardly Walk Without Resting.

When you go to a physician to be examined for any heart trouble one of the first questions he asks is: "Are you short of breath?"

Now, when the heart becomes affected, there ensues a feeling of a choking sensation, a shortness of breath, palpitation, throbbing, irregular beating, smothering sensation, dizziness and a weak, sinking, all-gone feeling of oppression and anxiety.

On the first sign of the heart becoming weakened or the nerves unstrung, Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are just the remedy you require. They regulate and stimulate the heart, and strengthen and restore the whole nervous system.

Mr. Stephen Crouse, East Clifford, N. S., writes:—"I suffered for five years with heart trouble. I could hardly walk from the house to the barn without resting, and I used to get so short of breath. Doctors could not help me. My wife told me to get a box of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills and I felt better after taking them; three boxes made me quite well. I am now helping my son to work on the farm, and can truthfully say I feel like a different man."

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Oxford Student Suicide.  
 London, May 10.—Alastair Graham, a relative of the Duke of Montrose, committed suicide by lying down across the rails of an express train at Oxford. It is learned today, Graham was a university student and is said to have suffered from religious melancholy.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

"We was eating supper yesterday, being alone under onions and mash potatoes, me droppingsomething on the floor by accident every little while, and ma sed, 'For goodness sake, Benny, why can't you be careful?' Peret it was a spoon and then a slice of bread and butter, and now its your wife, why can't you be careful?"

Gosh, ma, I am careful, if I wasn't careful I'd drop about twice as much, I sed.

O its no use dawking to you, and ma.

Meaning on account of me being so good at a argument, and pritty soon after that I dropped something else, being my fork, and ma sed, Benny, mark my words, if you drop another thing yll leave the table, and I call you father to witness wat I saw.

I witakes it, sed pop.

Which I didnt drop anything for nearly 5 minutes almost, and then wat did I drop but my fork agen, ma saying, 'There it goes, now you jest get up from this table.'

But G, gosh, ma, that wasn't another thing, that was only my fork agen, you sed another thing, didnt she pop? I sed.

As a matter of fact, mother thats wat you sed, in the tristle of strick justice, I must decide this case in favor of the defendant, sed pop. Meaning me, and I keep on eating carefull till all of a sudden I got so carefull my elbo hit my glass of water and it upset and went all over the table cloth except wat went in pops lap, and pop jumped up mad and tried to get the water off his pants with his napkin, saying, 'Dang but it to blazes!'

Its hoo, now aint you sorry you let him stay? sed ma.

Benny, leave the table before your mother is overcome by her sense of humor, sed pop.

Wich I did.

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trousers, and you shall choose them. Which pair do you want?"

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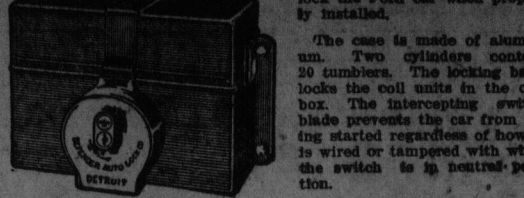
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