The St. John Standard

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ST JOHN, N. B. TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1920.

STRAIGHTFORWARD SPEECH.

The Montreal Gazette, of Saturday, pays the following compliment to S. E. Elkin, M. P., of St. John, who had the intelligence to understand that conditions in the world had changed, and what was good enough for yesterday does not suit today. Editorially The Gazette says:

"Free traders, real and counterfeit —and the latter far outnumber the former in the House of Commons— can have derived little comfort from the speech contributed to the budget debate by Mr. Stanley Elkin, of St. John. The making of a protectionist speech by a manufacturer is not surprising, but the fact that Mr. Elkin is a manufacturer is no answer to the strong argument which he put forward or to the timely and pertinent statistics with which that argument was fortified. Newspapers and individuals addicted to the theory of free trade are wont to condemn the protective tariff as a device employed for the benefit of 'big interests.' There is more truth in the contention than those who repeat it with parrot-like frequency are able fully to appreciate. A protective tariff does benefit the big interests, the biggest interests of all, namely, those of all the people and of all industries. 'Canada,' said Mr. Elkin, 'does not have a protective tariff because a few manufacturers want it. Canada has a protective tariff because the nation wants it. The nation has so expressed itself at the polls time after time, under both Conservative and Liberal Governments, during the last forty years.' The attempt which is made to decry protection as a policy for manufacturers only, is a disingenuous one, used chiefly by those who know better, for the purpose of misleading those who do not. Mr. Elkin reminds all these that Canadian factories provide employment for six hundred thousand people and support for their families, and that other beneficiaries are the wholesalers, retailers and their employees engaged in the distribution of manufactured products; the farmers who find a market in Canada for eighty per cent. of their produce; the transportation companies and their employees, engaged in the carriage of Canadian goods; bankers, brokers and their employees, engaged in financing Canadian industries; the large army of non-manufacturing people having investments in Canadian industries, and men and women of the various professions who are dependent upon the presence of an industrial population. The list might be extended to cover all classes and all occupations because all are dependent upon the national prosperity which in this country is founded upon the protective system. Mr. Elkin was able to quote some striking figures as establishing the fact that the protective tariff has brought hundreds of United States industries into Canada, enlarging the field of employment and increasing the wealth of the country. Space does not permit a recital of all the points which bristled in this interesting address, but one other must be mentioned. Canada has invested hundreds of millions in state-owned railways. 'Her only chance to prevent that investment becoming a dead loss is to keep a steady flow of traffic moving east to west, and from west to east. If ever it becomes diverted to a north and south direction, her transportation plant might as well be scrapped.' It should not be necessary, in view of recent disclosures in regard to the railway muddle, to enlarge upon the importaance of this consideration."

THE SPORT OF KINGS.

It is announced that His Excellency the Governor-General will go to the opening of the Woodbine races in State, thus following the fashion set by His Majesty the King at Royal Ascot, and the Governors-General of India and Australia when they attend the running of the Calcutta Derby and the Melbourne Cup. Sport lovers here will welcome the introduction of this good old custom in Canada. It calls attention to the fact that horse-racing is properly called "the sport of kings," and that the English reigning family has always taken a particularly keen interest in it. King Edward, as all the world knows, won two Derbies with horses of his own breeding and another with a colt he leased. He had one of the greatest stables in England, and for many years as Prince of Wales he was a keen follower of the sport. King George has had entries in the Derby, and we hope that some day he may have the honor of carrying off the Epsom classic. The Prince of Wales is also getting together a stable, and some of his thoroughbreds will be established on his Alberta ranch. The sport has greatly benefited by the interest taken in it by royalty. It has its own laws, but they are as inexorable as the law of the land, as sternly enforced, as generally respected and are administered by men who are above reproach.

The Kings' Plate is the oldest turf fixture continuously run on the continent. It is by no means the richest race. It does not attract the best horses; but as a sporting event it occupies a unique position in Canadian racing, indeed among Canadian sporting events. The fact that it was originally a race for a piece of plate offered by Queen Victoria is perhaps responsible for the strong rivalry there has always been among breeders to win this contest. It has become to us what the Derby is to England, and the name of the winner is flashed on the wires to every part of the world where men are interested in horse-racing. People who rarely make a bet on other races yield to the temptation to have a bit down on the plate, and when the favorite wins the cheers can be heard a mile away. Even those who disapprove of the betting that is held to be essential to the sport of racing do not condemn the very human and sporting instinct that prompts a man to risk a small sum on a race which is a classic, and that is likely to continue as an annual fixture as long as thoroughbred horses are bred and run in Canada.

SOUTH AMERICA DONS OVERALLS.

Between the continents of America another bond of union has been created out of the common feeling that the present orgy of international waste and extravagance should be brought to an end. Recent cable despatches from a number of the southern republics tell us that the overalls protest has made its appearance in those parts.

It is naturally in the cosmopolitan centres that the movement has made progress. Buenos Aires led off. Honors for second place were closely contested for by Lima, Santiago and Montevideo. A Cabinet Minister of Peru set an example by wearing the garb in the historic streets of Lima. The President of Uruguay has given his encouragement to the idea. He offers to buy at his own expense a large quantity of cloth to be made into overalls. University faculties, the heads of other institutions of learning and employees of the national and municipal governments have hailed the new fad with enthusiasm.

The movement is parallel to that which has been under way in our own country. Overalls have been made the symbol of protest against reckless expenditures. There is good reason, however, for our neighbors to give it a more literal significance. Clothing in South America is normally expensive. Practically all of it is imported. There are few textile factories except for the coarser materials. The man who wants European or North American apparel must expect to pay a fancy price for it. If we add from 50 per cent. to 100 per cent. or even 200 per cent., to what we pay for our clothes the resulting amount will be a fairly approximate figure for what the overage well-dressed South American must pay.

Millions of persons in South America will not be affected by the overalls movement. In some of the republics simple two-piece garments of cheap and light material suffice to clothe the residents, whether in the tropical lowlands or on the bleak Andean plateaux. But there is a rapidly increasing number of the population who already have learned to like and wear the overalls. The present movement, if it should continue, will necessarily react to their detriment, just as it affected those in the United States who wear overalls because of their work.

But it is not to be expected that the overalls protest will survive in South America longer than it did in the States. The spirit of thrift and economy it symbolizes is encouraging. South America has been prosperous since the war began. Top prices for raw products have made money plentiful and have created indifference to the prices paid, especially for imported goods. There are many evidences that these abnormal conditions will soon be a thing of the past. The quick spread of the overalls as a symbol of sanity is merely another indication of the truth of this assertion.

TENANT-LANDLORDS.

"Own your own apartment house" seems to be the most up-to-date version of the "own your own home" slogan, and also the most up-to-date cry in fighting profiteering landlords. It is reported that tenants in New York City have purchased over $75,000,000 worth of apartments and business structures during the past year. The purchase and subsequent management of the buildings is a co-operative affair.

It is obvious that these tenant-landlords will not evict themselves on painfully short notice nor raise their own rents unnecessarily. It is expected that genuine economies will result and, in time, that the co-operatively owned apartment houses or office buildings will become paying propositions to the tenant-owners, as they were to the landlord-owners before.

There will no doubt be new problems as a result of such group ownership. If neighbors quarrel or offend each other in any way there will be no remote landlord to whom to carry the complaint. Perhaps co-operating householders will have to co-operate a little further and establish some sort of tribunal to settle disputes and to plan for improvements. It is possible, too, that the effort to prevent disagreeable disputes and the pride of ownership which will come with the new movement will create a better spirit among apartment house dwellers. Each family will have a new reason for doing its part in keeping up the good appearance and the good name of the whole place.

HUNDREDS OF BONUS MILLIONS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS SHORT BILLIONS.

The Secretary of the U. S. Treasury tells the bonus politicians in Congress the flat truth about the nation's financial straits. Even to the reckless spendthrift it must seem a warning to be heeded against all squander and against increased spending for whatever purpose. To intelligence and integrity it must seem a mandate for imperative saving and honest debt paying.

By the official testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury the Government has not enough revenue by billions of dollars to pay its bills.

The Government has to go to the banks so repeatedly and then to borrow from them so heavily to get ready cash for current expenditures that the credit situation is overstrained, the needs of industry and business suffer, production of the necessaries of life is hampered and the inflated cost of living is continued.

The Government has so many billions of dollars of funded debts to pay in the next three years that all the available national resources that can be relied upon will be required to come even anywhere near paying those debts.

If more taxes can be safely imposed and if more money can be raised by such taxes it will all be needed, desperately needed, to meet the Government's present obligations, get the Treasury on its feet and enable the country to do its work.

Yet in spite of this official warning from the chief financial officer of that nation the bonus politicians declare they are going to jam the bonus raid measure through Congress, no matter what it does to the Government's credit, no matter what it does to the Liberty bonds of the American people, no matter what it does to their taxes, no matter what it does to their cost of living, no matter what it does to their jobs and to their bread and butter.

But if Congress does this deed to its own dishonor and to the wrong of the country it will be for the President of the United States to veto it to his own honor and to the welfare of the American people.

A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

Bishop Fallon and The Christian Guardian are not widely apart upon the question of making divorce easier of access in Ontario. His Lordship was not careful in his choice of words in the first instance, and The Christian Guardian used the retort discourteous. It is a matter with which the public probably feels no concern. The issue raised is, however, of deep moment. Anything that will tend to loosen the bonds of society as founded upon the marriage sacrament cannot fail to have the most serious influence upon the morality of the nation. It does not follow necessarily that because divorce is placed within the reach of the ordinary citizen that the divorce court will be abused. But inevitably that would be the danger. There is, however, no logical answer to the complaint that if we are to recognize the right to divorce at all, it must be without undue hardship to those entitled to it.

The war set up circumstances which has apparently resulted in an unusual demand for divorce. Unhappily, not every married couple was able to withstand the tremendous strain of separation which the war imposed. Yet only a comparative few forgot their vows. The misery and the loneliness which the war created was borne with silent fortitude by so many thousands of Canadian men and women that it is doubly a pity there should have been even the few departures therefrom.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Not By a Jugful.

(Toronto Globe.)

Every man who lingers in his cellar these days isn't setting traps for muskrats

Degrees of Friendliness.

(Manitoba Free Press.)

Apparently the attitude of the Australians toward the Japanese is that they are willing to have them friendly but not too friendly.

Unhappy Marriages.

(London Express.

The ""go-as-you-please" marriage story that comes to us from America has caused what is known as a "sensation" on this side, but it is by no means the first experiment in this kind of "union." It has been tried even in this backward old country, and it has failed, as it was bound to fail—being contrary to the laws of human nature, as well as offensive to the most elastic moral codes. It is absurd to imagine that men and women can regulate their intimate personal relationships on the lines of office routine; that the passions of love and jealousy can be eliminated in husband and wife; that a mother can treat the child she bore as a charitable institution would treat an orphan; that a father could look upon his offspring merely as a trustee. There is no complete remedy for unhappy marriages, but a large measure of relief is to be found in reasonable facilities for divorce—equal in the case of both sexes.

The Beaver Tail.

(Toronto Globe.)

We shall not have a tariff war. The Presidential year is always a season of friction, when tying knots on the lion's tail becomes a popular pastime, especially during the election preliminaries. Washington seems to forget that the beaver's tail is not adapted to this form of amusement, and that the beaver does not readily permit these familiarities.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Last Satiddny aftirnoon I was beeting rugs out in the back yard on account of it being the 3rd Satiddday I was sipposed to beet them and ma saying if I dident she would tell pop, and I was out there beeting them, and wondering if eny of the fellows was out and wat they was doing, thinking, G, this is a heck of a thing for a guy to be doing on Satiddday. I wish I was having a race with sumbody on my roller skates.

And I went and looked in the kitchin ware ma was beeting eggs to make them puffy saying, Hay, ma, wy cant I beet those old rugs tomorro insted of today?

Wat, on Sundey, are you krazy? sed ma.

No mam, I sed.

And I went back and kepp on beeting the rugs slow, thinking, Gosh, I'd drather be taking a bath than doing this.

And then I went over to the corner of the yard ware I planted the onion to see if enything was coming up yet, wich nuthing was, and I went back and started to beet the rugs agen thinking, Id almost drather be in skool than doing this pritty neer.

And I kepp on beeting them slow and wishing I was having fun sumwares, thinking, If enybody asked me wich was the werst thing I wouldent drather do, I'd tell them this.

Wich jest then I herd pop call down stairs, saying, Say, mother, im tired of waiting for the laundry man to colleck this wash wy cint Benny carry the hole buntch of it to the lundry, its ony about 7 or 8 blocks frum heer.

He can't go, he's beeting rugs, sed ma. Me thinking, Gosh, G, herray. And I started to beet the rugs faster, but not mutch.

Proving there is allways sumthing werse.

Daily Fashion Hint

Prepared Especially For This Newspaper

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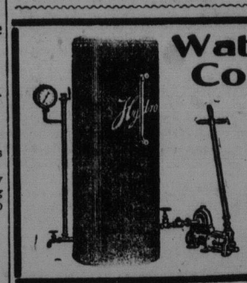

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OBITUARY.

John Foley.

Seeley's Cove, N. B., May 21.—The many friends of John Foley will regret to hear of his death which occurred on Friday the 14th, after a linger-

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