

## The St. John Standard

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

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Advertising Rates:  
Contract Display, 4c. per line  
Classified, 15c. per word  
Inside Readers, 15c. per line  
Outside Readers, 15c. per line  
(Agate Measurement)

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1921

## A LONG STEP TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT.

Now that the full text of the terms of agreement between the British and Irish representatives at the conference on Ireland is available, it is possible to consider the situation more intelligently. It is of course too soon to take the proposed solution of the Irish question as an accomplished fact. All that has been accomplished is an agreement between the British cabinet and the delegates representing the Irish. The plan drawn up has still to be passed upon by the Westminster and Dublin Parliaments, and the strength of the opposition to be apprehended cannot yet be measured. Discussion has hardly begun; the details of the plan have not yet been grasped by the public either in Ireland or in Great Britain. Obviously there is still a risk of failure, and too many attempts at a solution of the Irish question have failed to permit complete confidence that the new plan launched at the last moment like a lifeboat from a sinking ship will go straight into port without encountering fresh squalls.

Yet it is at any rate hopeful that the new plan does not require the operation of Ulster. To make every effort to secure such co-operation was entirely proper, but the course of the triangular negotiations has shown the indisposition of Ulster to budge an inch for the sake of the settlement. The British government is warranted in believing that a tripartite agreement is as impossible as squaring the circle. On the other hand the Prime Minister does not in this plan abandon his refusal to coerce Ulster. The frontier of Ulster is to be rectified to correspond with the vote and presumably two of the six counties will be transferred to Southern Ireland, but Ulster as thus defined will be free if it chooses to vote itself out of the Irish Free State.

This is theory the unity of Ireland which has often been taken for the crux of the whole question, is not granted. How have the Sinn Féin delegates been brought to this conclusion? They will in due time be heard from; meanwhile the natural explanation is that the new plan is one which promises ultimately to knit Ireland together. Reversing its previous policy, the British government offers to the Irish Free State powers and advantages beyond those conferred upon Ulster, which if it stays out, will have to be contented with its present status and a diminished territory.

To the Irish Free State is pledged a status corresponding almost precisely to that of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. British garrisons will be withdrawn, and Ireland will be free to have its own army subject only to the condition that it be not disproportionately large as compared with that of Great Britain. The British navy as to protect Ireland, but Ireland may at once have its revenue cutters if it likes. What is of more importance, it will be free to control its own customs, and even to tax British goods, though the spokesman for Sinn Féin declared that in practice free trade with Great Britain would be to the interest of Ireland.

In the granting of this right, which Ulster would forfeit by opting itself out of the Irish Free State, we may perhaps see the strongest hope of an ultimate Irish union. Commercial ties are of the most potent sort when their effect is not neutralized by oppression as was the case among the states of the Hapsburg empire. Ulster is to be left free, but it is to be given every incentive voluntarily to cast its lot with the Irish Free State, and this is sound statesmanship.

The details of the new plan will require deliberate examination and criticism and may need to be modified, but a first reading carries the impression that if a settlement on these terms can be put through it will make Irish freedom a reality and put the Irish people in the way to realize their age-long hopes.

Shortly after the foregoing was written, and put in type, a Canadian Press despatch brought the information that De Valera absolutely refused to consider the proposals contained in the agreement arrived at. The Daily Express will be summoned to meet to take the question up next Wednesday, but from it, one gathers that the indications are not very favorable for acceptance of the proposals.

It seems to be the idea in France that while they have persuaded Germany into promising to be good, it is still well enough to keep the poisoner where it can be reached.

## THE RED CROSS

The annual convention of the New Brunswick Division of the Canadian Red Cross Society takes place today and elsewhere in this issue will be found a programme of the proceedings to take place thereat.

No one needs to be told of the great work that the Society did throughout the war, and is still doing along other lines. With the declaration of the Armistice and the demobilization of the military, the magnificent service of the Red Cross was in danger of losing its incentive. The epic of the services rendered will probably never be written, but many who took an active ministering part in them gained for the first time a clearer appreciation of how much better it is to give than to receive. But with the cessation of the need for war service, the thought arose, why not use the Red Cross for community welfare? All kinds of movements in the city and the country were languishing and dying for just the kind of service that the Red Cross could give. The congestion of living conditions in the cities was breeding crime and sickness, and draining the vitality of the nation, and the country was drifting to depopulation and desertion. Doctors were making public such facts as that while the total numbers of deaths in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the first two and a quarter years was 15,756, during the same time there were 15,330 deaths in the Dominion from typhoid fever and tuberculosis, both preventable diseases, among men of military age. Dr. Hattie, medical officer of health for Nova Scotia some time ago estimated that our economic loss from unnecessary deaths in Canada is \$150,000,000 per annum. Prof. Irving Fraser, of Yale University, has estimated that the possible saving from better health conditions in the United States, is \$2,500,000,000. Feeble-minded children, the progeny of bad social conditions, cost America \$90,000,000 and crime \$600,000,000.

In the larger cities of Canada, in Montreal, Toronto and other cities, there are agencies numbering among their workers hosts of people, whose names are never known except when they give their pathetic reports—mostly made up of what they cannot do for lack of support and assistance. At the other end of social endeavor are town planning associations which see that land sweating is at the root of nearly all social life, and would bring all the national resources of science, education and religion to the building of better towns where there shall be room to live in decency, comfort and beauty and where there shall be room for children to play.

Behind all these movements there is needed just that public service that was the inspiring motive of the Red Cross during those five memorable years. Florence Nightingale said that the aim of her life was a better life for women. Many years will pass before the women of Canada will make themselves anything of a power in the political life of the country. Here is the better way—through the medium of the Red Cross.

## AS PORTLAND SEES IT.

Portland Express: "One of the 'issues' in the Canadian elections of yesterday which resulted in the defeat of the present government and the return of the Liberals to power was the utilization of the port of Portland as the winter terminal of the Grand Trunk Railway. The Liberals had promised that if they were successful the ports of St. John and 'Halifax would be used for Canadian traffic instead of Portland. The Liberal victory might therefore, 'naturally' be interpreted as meaning that our great grain elevators would now be permitted to crumble to the dust and our steam and freight sheds to decay and fall into the ocean.

"This might be true were it not that 'natural laws and not politics determine the great avenues of trade. Canadian ships are not sent to Portland because of the favor of any political party or the love of any political leader. They come here because 'Canadian trade can be handled to better advantage here than it can in any other port during the period that the St. Lawrence is locked in ice.

"Naturally Canadians prefer the development of their home ports and it is true that had not Nature neutralized that preference to a great extent a British ship rarely or never would have sailed in port the 'Two Lights.' Steamships dread the 'dangerous approach to Halifax and St. John and the memories of lost ships trying to make them frighten them away as do ghost stories a child from a graveyard. The fact

that there is to be a change of government at Ottawa is not going to diminish that trend.

The dispatch of Canadian traffic through Portland in preference to St. John and Halifax made an attractive issue to enable the Liberals to win votes in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but the great natural conditions that make our port the safest and easiest to enter on the North Atlantic coast will continue to make it the Canadian winter outlet. 'We have been an issue many times before in Canadian elections and in the Canadian Parliament, but steamships have continued to load 'Canadian grain and other products at our docks during the winter season. The will continue. The Dominion elections reversed no 'natural laws.'

## FOR THE CHILDREN.

The appeal which is being made by the Local Council of Women on behalf of the Children's Aid Society is not likely to fall on deaf ears. The object is of such too worthy a nature for it to meet with such a fate. There is no nobler work than to help those who cannot help themselves, and the needs of children appeal to the average citizen with greater force than is the case with an adult. Help cannot be given without funds, and the splendid work that is being carried on by the Society should not be allowed to slacken or fall short for the need of them. Tomorrow our citizens will be afforded an opportunity of making a contribution to the Society's funds, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the response will be on a generous scale. St. John has a pretty good reputation for the hearty manner in which it always responds to calls of a benevolent nature and we entertain no doubt whatever that our citizens will rise to the occasion on Saturday just as cheerfully and largeheartedly as they have done in times past.

Already offers of seats have been made to Mr. M. But for the very unwise law passed in the 1920 session prohibiting any person from being a candidate in more than one constituency, this present situation need not have developed. It would have been far better to have adopted the English practice which permits a candidate to be elected in more than one constituency, but prohibits him from sitting for more than one. When taking his seat in the House he must choose which constituency he will sit for and when he has openly made his choice, the other seats for which he was elected, are declared vacant. There are several other constituencies that would have gladly put Mr. McEwen as the Government candidate, where he would have been sure of election. As things are however, if a seat is opened for him, he must depend upon the generosity and sportsmanship of Mr. King to give him the chance to be elected.

Rumors are current once again that a general Provincial Election will take place early in the new year. Two or three months ago, the Executive Council had the matter under consideration and it was only the strong differences of opinion that developed among the members concerning the advisability of such a course at that time that caused it to be postponed. The results of Tuesday's pollings have no doubt heightened Premier Foster's belief, the situation is such that he will need a strong following in the House next session if he is to carry some of the measures that appearances seem to make necessary. Another election may give it him—and it may not.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Not So Much Paint Around.  
(Kingston Standard.)

Most of us are glad that we lived in the old days when you could kiss a girl and not taste anything but girl.

Real Nerve.  
(Vancouver Province.)

If there is a Nobel prize for 'nerve' a New York paper suggests that it be awarded to the Washington reporter who asked Sir Robert Borden if he did not think that reciprocity would be a nice thing for Canada.

'Experts' Fall Down.  
(Vancouver Sun.)

The famous 'special writers' are falling down badly on the Washington conference. H. G. Wells' reports have already been repudiated by several papers which subscribed for them, including the London Daily Mail and the Portland Oregonian, and Bernard Shaw's anti-British effusions are being confined to the Hearst press, for which he now writes exclusively. The World's Canadian Press reports are the most unbiased and reliable now coming out of Washington.

An Inspiration.  
(Edmonton Journal.)

During Canadian authors' week the fact was brought out in an address by an eastern university lecturer that Canadian literature had been the means of furnishing inspiration to other literatures of worldwide fame. The poet Macleod had acknowledged, it was said, that the work of Duncan Campbell Scott had first turned his own efforts in the direction of versification, and in particular he gave credit to Scott's poem, 'The Piper of Ar.'.

Women, War and Men.  
(Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

Miss Jane Addams believes women will be able to avert future wars. We are less sanguine about it. We recall that Miss Addams failed to stop the

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Pop was reading the sporting page in the sitting room and I was looking all around for a chookit peppermint that I forgot was I did with, saying, Hay pop did you see anything of a chookit peppermint?

A chookit peppermint is such an unimportant thing in my life that I could properly pass a hole window full without remembering it, so you can judge what impression the site of merely one chookit peppermint would leave on my mind, sed pop.

Meaning no he hadn't saw it, and I kept on hunting, saying, G, that funny, I know its in this room some wares, its certainly funny, are you sure you didn't see it pop? It was a grate big fat one about 2 inches wide, I sed.

How can I need with you throwing chookit peppermints all over the place, keep quiet, sed pop.

And he kept on reading and I kept on hunting, and all of a sudden I remembered what I did with it, saying, G pop, have you got your slippers on?

I have, have you any objections? sed pop, and I sed, Yes sir but I guess its too late now.

Wats too late, wat, the dickies are you talking about? sed pop, and I sed, Well you see I think I put that chookit peppermint in one of your slippers, in fact I know I did because im sure I did.

Suffering cats, I haven't the hart to look, sed pop. And he put one foot up and started to feel one slipper with his hand, saying, There something in there all rise, I knew I had a funny sensation in that foot, confound it, wat do you want to go around putting candles in slippers for?

Well I had a good reason when I put it in but I forgot wat it was now, I sed. Wich jest then pop took his slipper off and the chookit peppermint was squashed down in the bottom of it all out of its original shape and size, and pop sed, Binat it all, look at my slipper, and look at my sock.

Well G, goah, pop, holey smoke, look at my chookit peppermint, I sed.

Being the last thing I sed before I got 3 farsee cracks.

last one, although she devoted several months to the task. Not only that, but she had the active assistance of Henry Ford. In any event, why the funk? Nobody wants war. As a representative of the so-called fighting sex, we are as much opposed to war as any woman. Why should a woman have her name in the papers because she is against it? However, any time the men make up their minds to fight we doubt that the women will be able to hold them.

An Oversight  
H—Was your wife angry when you came home last night?

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H—How did you get that black eye, then?

W—Well, she forgot to take the flowers out of the vase before she threw them.

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Two Hunters Found

Dead In Woods

Edmonton, Dec. 8.—Thomas Woodley and J. M. Macdonald, alias Robertson, two hunters, were found dead some distance in the woods from Hargrove, a town west of Edmonton on the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway by a search party, according to a wire received at provincial police headquarters late yesterday. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Andrew Morris last seen with the two dead men.

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