

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1920.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

The announcement that Hon. Dr. Roberts, the Minister of Public Health, is in future to receive the same salary as other Ministers, was not unexpected, as it had been rumored for some little time that legislation to provide for this would be put before the House this session. Dr. Roberts is the head of a recognized department, and if there is any real need for the Health Department to be a separate and distinct department, there is no reason why the head of it should not receive the same treatment as other Ministers.

The making of the office of Minister of Health a salaried position will cause Dr. Roberts to vacate his seat and seek re-election. There are more unlikely things than that the bright idea may occur to the Government that they can make a deal under which the vacant seat in Carleton may be left to the Opposition unopposed in return for allowing Dr. Roberts to retain his seat. It would be a great scheme, but, to use a common expression, there will be "nothing doing." Had the vacancy in Carleton been recent, perhaps some such arrangement, but to suggest it at this time of day would only be adding insult to the injury Carleton has suffered under for four sessions. Not that this would count for anything with the Forter Government, though.

THE FUTURE OF THE PULP INDUSTRY.

While there will inevitably be a large development of the pulp and paper industry in the Rocky Mountain states and a great increase of existing developments in the Pacific Northwest, including particularly Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, pulpwood supplies in Eastern Canada and the Eastern states will always have the material advantage of higher value owing to proximity to the great centres of population, with consequent saving in freight rates upon the manufactured products. "Conservation" points out.

Authorities in Canada are already alarmed at the increasing difficulty of securing, in the eastern provinces, adequate supplies of pulpwood readily accessible to existing developments. Already in too many cases, pulpwood placed in the water for driving does not reach the mill until the second year after cutting. This adds to the cost of transportation and to loss by shrinkage en route, and is inevitably reflected in higher prices to the consumer.

Great areas of the most accessible pulpwood lands have been so denuded by wasteful methods of logging and by fire, that they are now in an absolute or relative condition of unproductiveness. This is exactly the reason why the pulpwood supplies of the eastern states are so near exhaustion that many mills are largely dependent upon imports from privately owned timber lands in Canada. This heavy exportation from private lands in Canada of course correspondingly decreases the supplies that would otherwise be available for manufacture in Canadian mills.

It is obviously of the greatest importance to Eastern Canada that its great pulp and paper industries shall be permanent, rather than transitory, as is proving to be the case in the eastern states. To accomplish this end, however, it is necessary to make fully effective the view point that the forest is a crop, which, even with proper care, he produced some time after time upon the same land. This means the practice of forestry.

OLEOMARGARINE.

That useful alien, Ole O. Margarine, admitted to Canada to help win the war, is to be further allowed on sufferance until March, 1921, provided Hon. S. F. Tolmie's resolution in the House of Commons succeeds. Canada is said to have been the last country in the world to remove the regulations against the manufacture, importation and sale of this commodity. Yet the present consumption in the Dominion has been estimated at a million pounds monthly. The chief, if not the only, opposition to its presence on the Canadian market comes from the dairy interests, though it will be noted that the resolution to extend the legal life of the traffic comes from the Minister of Agriculture.

It is not to be supposed that the estimated monthly consumption of oleo takes the place of a million pounds of butter. Briefly, there isn't enough fat in it. Nevertheless, it has achieved a wide kitchen popularity. The best of it can be purchased for 20 to 25 cents a pound less than even dairy butter, and some people think it a fair substitute for the real thing, as substitutes go. Furthermore, it was good enough for Canadian troops in France during the war years, and in England as well.

While impartiality has been allowed as a war measure, the interesting part of it is that sales have held up in volume since the war. The product

has to conform to a Government standard, and is made under Government supervision, which is more than can be said of dairy butter. As a matter of fact, of course, there is no comparison between oleomargarine and even fairly good Canadian butter, as to taste, cooking value or the many important matters of nutrition. But if the article is here to stay, why the temporary extension of Parliamentary approval? Only two Canadian packing firms made oleomargarine, on account of the uncertainty as to its future. The remainder of the amount consumed comes from the United States. If we must have the stuff, why not make it all at home?

THE JOYS OF PROHIBITION.

Americans, deprived of liquor, have taken to eating quantities of sweets. There is a sound physiological reason for this. The body, deprived of its customary drug, whether it be alcohol or tobacco, craves for a substitute and is afflicted by malaise till it secures one. But this little truth has also its social and commercial side. Unquestionably much of the money which normally is spent on liquor would under prohibition be devoted to other commodities, and, by inference, those who have other commodities to sell might reasonably hope to benefit by prohibition or by a system of local option. As soon as the fact is thoroughly grasped in England there will be a great accession to the ranks of those who advocate either of those systems, which explains why it has already been found in this country, when a plebiscite was held on the estates of a private trust to discover whether the tenants did or did not desire the admission of liquor licenses, that the small tradesman was sufficiently wide-awake to be a local prohibitionist, and it will be astonishing if a similar phenomenon does not play an important part in the Scottish local option pollings that are to take place later in this year. Meanwhile those fortunate enough to be deprived of alcohol may be envied their discovery of sweets. Like St. Augustine and Tolstoy, who enjoyed the pleasures successively of sin and holiness, they have the best of both worlds. The poor teetotaler, alas! has nothing better to look forward to than the cloying satisfaction of eating more sweets and yet more, which, physiologically, may not be good for him.

German financiers express much alarm at present economic conditions in that country and say that unless the present era of extravagant spending soon passes, there will be absolute financial breakdown. They urge action to prevent the importation of luxuries in the belief that the only way to stop the spending is to eliminate the supply. While the mass of the German people became much poorer because of the war, many individuals prospered. There now seems to be no disposition on the part of the Germans toward thrift. They fear that any savings accumulated may later be seized by the Government and so are quickly ridding themselves of any surplus cash, holding that present enjoyment is preferable to handing it over to the Government later or having it seized by radicals. As a large proportion of the spending is for foreign importations, the expenditure does not assist in the rebuilding of German industry.

The prices of overalls have gone up in expectancy of the increased demand by reason of the overall campaign about to invade Canada, and now it remains to be seen if a decreased demand for the better styles of clothing will result in a corresponding decrease in the cost of same. If so, then it can be safely assumed that demand and not value is responsible, to some extent, for the high cost of living, and the question naturally arises just how much profiteering is going on because of demand.

Germany seems to have learned its lesson from the prompt action of the French and has notified the Allies that the disarmament of the civic guards has been commenced. It takes the action under protest, calling attention to the unsettled conditions and urging that an adequate military force is necessary. But with the support of the three strongest of the seven political parties, the Ebert administration appears to be quite firmly established until political changes come.

It took just twenty-six seconds by actual count for the House to put through the measure increasing the indemnity of members from \$500 to \$1,000.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Station in the Knapack. Sir William Robertson's promotion to the rank of Field Marshal makes him the first British soldier to accomplish a feat which was easier in Napoleon's armies. Not a few of Emperor's marshals had worn a knapack, but Sir William is the only man who, entering the ranks as a private, has won a knapack.

He became a full General as recently as 1914, and there are nine on the list senior to him. During or since the war there have already been seven Field Marshals created, but of these the Emperor of Japan and Marshal Foch figure in an honorary capacity.

Just-Bone Heads. (Chicago Evening Post.) Marblehead workers are out on strike—Marblehead, Mass. But the name applies to more of the strikers anywhere.

Will Die Enraged. (Cleveland Plain Dealer.) Edison says we shorten our life by overeating. Any man who can shorten his life by overeating at present prices will die enervated by all.

The Iron Hand. (London Daily Mail.) For Germany the only sane thing is to stop this ruinous fighting and settle down to peace and hard work.

Too Much Red. (Baltimore American.) The De Valera movement is threatened too much with red to commend it to the hundreds of thousands of men of Irish descent, the real friends of Ireland, who are insistent upon home rule for all our moral and social difficulties.

In Praise of Boy Scouts. (Manchester Guardian.) Boy Scouting will not, as a few of its most ardent enthusiasts suggest, solve all our moral and social difficulties. But it is one of the few great original social inventions of our time. It rests on real insight into the mind and soul of the boy, and the training that it gives is attended by the delight that fuses a new piece of knowledge right into the character and makes it a treasure for life.

School Life of India. (Times of India.) Many sorts of school life are more useful than larger areas at a considerable distance from the children's homes. Far more ordinary school work might be done in the open air. Every school should start in the open air, next acquire a covered playground, and finally a school building. Physical development must be really as well as mentally an integral part of education, if India is to compete with Japan, and if city children are to fight successfully against the corruption which comes from life divorced from physical labor.

A BIT OF VERSE.

THESHIPS OF GREY ST. JOHN.

(Bliss Carman.)

Smile, you inland hills and rivers;

Flush, you mountains, in the dawn;

But my ship is sailing in the open air.

With the ships of grey St. John.

Fair the land lies, full of August.

Meat, the devil, has gone;

Open bars and breezy twilight.

Peace and the mild evening star.

Gently now this gentlest country

The old habitude takes on;

But my wintry heart is outboard

With the great ships of St. John.

Once in your wide arms you held me

Till the man-child was a man,

Canada, great nurse and mother

Of the young sea-roving clan.

Always your bright face above me

Through the dreams of boyhood

Shone;

Now far alien countries call me

With the ships of grey St. John.

Swing you tides, up out of Fundy;

Blow, you white fogs, in from sea,

I was born of your billows' delight

You were bred to pilot me.

At the touch of your strong fingers

Doubt, the devil, has gone;

Same and glad I clear the headland,

With the white ships of St. John.

Loyalists, my fathers, builded

This grey port of the grey sea,

When the duty to ideals

Could not let well-being be.

When the breath of scarlet bunting

Puts the wreath of maple on,

I was christened with my meanings

With the ships of grey St. John.

Peerlesshearted port of heroes,

Be a word to lift the world,

Till the many see the signal

Of the few once more unfurled.

Peat the nighthouse, peat the mus-

buoy,

Past the crimson rising sun,

There are dreams go down the har-

bor

With the tall ships of St. John.

In the morning I am with them

As they clear the Island bar—

Fade till speck by speck the midday

Has forgotten where they are.

But I sight a vaster sea-line,

Wider leeway, longer run,

Whose discoverers return not

With the ships of grey St. John.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

Other men beside ministers marry for money.

What a lovely old world this would be if all the vanity were eliminated.

It is much easier to tell people that there is no use in worrying than it is to tell them how to avoid it.

New Definition.

"Describe, water, Johnny," said the teacher. "Water," explained Johnny, "is a white fluid that turns black when you put your hands in it."

His Ambition.

"Johnny," said the teacher, "what is your greatest ambition?" Johnny considered briefly. "I think," he said, "it is to wash mother's ears."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Pop was reading the sporting page last night and I was getting ready to think about doing my lesson, and I said, G, pop, gosh.

Is that so? said pop keeping on reading.

When I grow up and go to college will I have to study latin?

I said.

Most assuredly, said pop.

Aw, G, pop, I said, what good's latin? and pop said, The only romances used to speak latin as fluently as we speak English.

Well, gosh, pop, what good did it do them? I said.

It eased their minds, I supposed, said pop. And he kept on reading the sporting page, and pretty soon I said, Well, G, pop, heck, I don't want to speak latin, I can ease my mind without that, pop.

All right, those that don't like the sound of latin can study Greek, said pop, and I said, Is that any easier, pop?

Harder, you had to understand music to read Greek printing, said pop, and I said, Aw, G, pop, that's fierce, I don't want to pop?

How do you expect me to read this paper? said pop. Meaning with me, said pop, and I said, If I study latin when I go to college will you give me a dime for the movies tomorrow afternoon?

No, but I'll give you a couple of swift smacks with my slipper if I hear another word out of you, said pop.

Which he didn't.

Lengthy Process.

Jack: "What does your wife say when you come home late?"

Tom: "Do you expect me to reel off a three-volume serial at a moment's notice?"—Christian Guardian.

PILES

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School Life of India.

(Times of India.)

Many sorts of school life are more useful than larger areas at a considerable distance from the children's homes.

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Every school should start in the open air, next acquire a covered playground, and finally a school building.

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