

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1922.

## LLOYD GEORGE AT CANNES. A CHEERFUL OUTLOOK.

The Allied Supreme Council on Friday began what Lloyd George called its most important session, and this may not be an exaggeration since the first day resulted in an unanimous decision to call an economic conference to which Germany and Russia are to be invited. To bring this about was one of the principal aims of the British Prime Minister, and his speech on the subject was one of his most notable efforts. If he did not go beyond ground which he has long tentatively held, he advanced his views with a firmness and vigor such as he could hardly have shown before their validity had been demonstrated by the economic crisis.

Some of the things which he said will not be relished in France, but he softened their edge by proposing a sufficient guarantee for the safety of France, provided it is ready for concessions making for the economic rehabilitation of Europe. Among the stipulated concessions is a change in the reparations requirements which would lessen the amount which Germany has to pay for the present in money. He denied that he was moved by tenderness for Germany, and he suggested in very plain language that England as well as France suffers from the war, which did cease not to be measured by devastated towns and farms. He insisted also that to pay Germany must trade, and disposed of the notion that it is doing a roaring business by showing that its exports are not a fourth of what they were before the war.

France is to be congratulated upon relaxing its uncompromising attitude to the extent of sanctioning the invitation of Germany and Russia to the conference; plans for the reconstruction of Europe cannot get far without the participation of these two great countries which between them make up about half the continent and are an essential part of it because of the vast resources of the one and the immense industrial and organizing power of the other.

## A GASOLINE TAX.

Premier Foster is reported as having expressed the view that a tax of one cent per gallon upon gasoline is not a practical or proper method of raising revenue. No doubt most users of automobiles will agree with him, but outside of this class, the probable consensus of opinion will be that those who are wealthy enough to sport around in cars, are or should be wealthy enough to contribute a little to the revenue.

The Government of Manitoba apparently holds very different views upon a gasoline tax than does Mr. Foster, for it is now proposing to put a cent a gallon upon this commodity, and expects to raise \$300,000 a year from it. Moreover the trend of the times seems to be toward the enactment of the gasoline sales tax throughout the United States. During the year just ended this tax was adopted by ten different legislatures; and now it is on the statute books of fourteen of the States of the Union.

There are, roughly speaking, some 15,000 automobiles and trucks registered in this Province, not including motor cycles, and at a conservative estimate the average consumption of gasoline by each of these cars and trucks would be about 350 gallons a year. This would mean a total consumption of 5,250,000 gallons, which would produce a tax of \$5,250,000. Besides these cars, there is a large number of motor boats in which the consumption of gasoline is much heavier than that of cars. With the motor cycles, these boats might easily be expected to bring in another \$37,500, which make a total tax of \$5,625,000.

Of course we readily appreciate the fact that from the standpoint of the Premier Government, an additional \$5,625,000 to the revenue is only a trifle, which would go no distance whatever towards satisfying their financial needs. Perhaps it was this phase of the matter which the Premier had in mind when he said a gasoline tax was not a practical method of increasing the revenue. Still every little helps, and it would provide at least a portion of the money required to pay Mr. King's salary and a lot of those other useless hangars on that the Government seems to be delighted to provide for, and to pay the deposits on properties they decide to buy but do not really need.

Pictures were shown yesterday in the Imperial of the principal participants in the making of the British peace pact. Those of Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Hans Grosvenor, Arthur Griffiths and Michael Collins were received by the audience with hearty cheering, but Mr. De Valera's image was greeted with a stony silence.

So far in his memoirs Mr. Tully has made it appear that he approved all that President Wilson did. This began when the former President selected his secretary.

## Notes by The Office Boy



Folks who own cars say that the cost of the car is a trifle compared with the cost of operation. It shouldn't be. This is a 52 per cent was at the pictures the other day and they showed an ad. arranged in which if you use some paint arrangement for tires, it saves 33 per cent of cost of operation. Then there is my old friend Peter Davidson, who recently came back from England with some kind of device that saves gasoline, which English news claims saves 50 per cent of cost of operating. That is a 52 per cent reduction if you use both these things. Now it seems to me if some one will just bring out some other thing that will save another 25 per cent, or so, folks can run their cars for nothing.

I see in a horticultural paper that Pennsylvania orchardists are spraying their trees with parathionchloride. If there is anything in a name, this stuff ought to kill anything.

American appear to be going at this naval disarmament by degrees. First they scrapped the liquid form, used for christening war ships, and now they propose to scrap the ships themselves.

The year has progressed about far enough now, I think, for keeping a diary and keeping the New Year's resolution to pass into limbo, unconscious destitute. How's that sound?

A baldheaded man who criticizes bobbed hair as worn by the girls doesn't know how unattractive he is. I read that the new fashion has greatly augmented the supply of hair for wigs.

To those who have nothing else to worry about, I would suggest that there's a Friday, the thirteenth, this month.

I wonder who the knifey was who discovered that kesses and money are both prolific germ carriers.

It's a wise foolgagger who declines when asked by a customer to "take something himself."

The girl across the way says the husband of her husband could give his wife all the money she wants. I doubt myself if there's that much in the world.

General Condemnation. (London Free Press.) Outside of the London Advertiser, which seems to regard Mr. King as the greatest statesman since the days of the attack of Mr. King (upon Mr. Meighen, in the Grenville connection) which has revealed a pettiness of character unworthy of a man holding the first position in Canada. Even the Toronto Globe, which has pursued Mr. Meighen in the most vicious fashion, is constrained to admit that there is no constitutional irregularity.

The Bradford Expositor (Liberal) says the prime minister "has become needlessly fussed up," and declares that there has been no "technical matter." Mr. King's protest, evidently, having gained a political victory over Mr. Meighen, the Liberal leader desires to limit personal humiliation upon his opponent. He would bar Meighen from the House of Commons. It is not a pleasant prospect.

THE "IRISH REPUBLIC" THAT HAS LOST ITS PRESIDENT. (Toronto Telegram) De Valera's resignation as "President of the Irish Republic" following his refusal to agree to any proposal for an Irish settlement, is not a demonstration of the well known Southern Irish character, since De Valera has never represented anybody but the Irish and Germans in the United States. It was in the United States, not in Ireland that De Valera held sway as "President of the Irish Republic." The boundaries of that "republic" are the saloons of New York and Chicago in the east and the saloons of San Francisco in the west. Whatever agreement the British Government would reach with Ireland, De Valera would never have been a party to it. The people who make up the New York-Chicago-San Francisco "Irish Republic," seek a destruction of the British Empire so quick and complete that no British Government could agree to it and camouflage the surrender.

LAST YEAR'S TRADE. (Winnipeg Tribune) The foreign trade of Canada during 1921 shows a heavy decrease in money values, as it naturally would when the enhanced purchasing power of the dollar is considered. It shows also a very much more satisfactory relation between exports, particularly as this change has clearly been brought about by an increase in exports. That is to say, our exports have increased in quantity, while both our imports and exports have declined in money value, leaving us with a balance very useful to the country in the present financial condition both of the world and local.

## Benny's Note Book

FRANK FEERNOT AND THE MILLIONAIRE. A Play.

Some boys throwing snow hills at old man. Frank Feernot. Hey, cut that out. You'll be old yourself some day if you live that long. I'll give you all a good swift kick in the pants if you don't leave that poor old man alone.

Old man. I may be an old man but I'm not poor. In rich. Frank Feernot. Am glad to hear it for your sake. Old man. A million dollars don't mean any more to me than a cent. Hear, I'll give you a check for a million as a little reward for your bravery.

Frank Feernot. No thanks I wouldn't know what to do with it and it would only be in the way. Old man. How sensible for one so young. Well then how about a half a million will you be on the subject? Frank Feernot. Well I don't want to appear selfish and not take anything. I'll take a dime if it's all the same to you.

Old man. Sure, I don't think any more of a dime than I do of a million, that's how rich I am. Hear the dime and I'll leave you the million in my will. Frank Feernot. Thanks, I wouldn't mind having it that way. Old man. Maybe I'll leave you 2 million for good measure. Well good by.

Frank Feernot. Good by. Be careful you don't slip on the ice because your bones break easy at your age. Ack! Frank Feernot. Heley smokes I forgot to give him my name and address. The end.

without imports of commodities also expanding. If with this process of renewed development, Canada preserves and extends the manifest increase in production and economy at home shown by the present position of our export trade, then we are at the beginning of a period of great, long-continued and well-founded prosperity.

A BIT OF VERSE. IN HEROIC MOOD. A New Year's resolution is a thing I seldom make For I've found that of all things It is easiest to break.

But this year I'm making some, For I've discovered that I'm getting rather more than pump. In fact, I'm getting fat! Why, that blue dress I bought last year Won't meet by quite an inch And when I tried my old shoes on, My, how the things did pinch.

So I'll reduce, I'll diet, not Eat any kind of sweets, I'll cut out dinner every day Until that blue dress may fit! And how I'll walk! Why I won't take A single side, not one! It's going to be hard, yes, but It's going to be done!

Oh, there the phone! Hello! Hello! Who? Mary? Why you dear! A dinner for the crowd you say, A starter for the year? Why, sure, I'll come! I'll get the car And hurry right on down! And I'll bring some chocolates I had sent out from town!

THE LAUGH LINE. Like His Dad. The small son of a shrewd financier was entertaining his uncle, who presently gave him a shilling. "Suppose," said the uncle, "I gave you a thousand pounds—what would you do with them?" "Count 'em," said the son of his father.

Choice of Voice. "Here comes Mrs. Gibbons. I think I'll have Nora tell her I'm out." "Won't she still, small voice of conscience reproach you?" "Yes, but I'd rather listen to the still, small voice than to hers."

Not Under Protest. Wife—"And knowing my sentiment on the subject did that odious Mr. Banks insult you by offering you a drink." Hubby—"That's what Mr. Banks did." Wife—"And how did you react?" Hubby—"I swallowed the insult."

How Did She Mean It? The small boy was being reproved by his mother. "Why can't you be good?" "I'll be good for a nickel." "Ah!" said the mother, you want to be bribed. You should copy your father and be good for nothing."

Or Excluded. Mason—Mr. Blair speaks twenty different languages. Father—including the one he uses at golf?

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Gaelic Harmony. Soothed Guards. Prisoner Escapes from Sydney Police Station — Was Dry and Wanted Another Drink. Sydney, N. S., Jan. 9.—Singing Gaelic songs to cover the noise of his operations, Allan MacKinnon, of Forchu, early this morning escaped from the central police station by mounting steel girders 35 feet above the floor and leaping through a skylight. Deck Sergeant Rennie McDonald chased MacKinnon and overtook him after a quarter of a mile. Arraigned before Judge Muggah, the runaway said: "I was extra dry and wanted another drink."

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## GREAT BRITAIN CANCEL

Separate Phase of the Treaty is Advanced by its Leaders.

London, Jan. 8.—The significance of the resolution recently passed by the representative meeting of English bankers and business men on the subject of reparations will not have escaped attention in America. With the chairman of one of the five great London clearing banks protesting, it was decided to recommend to the British Government that the war debt due to England by her Allies should be cancelled outright.

The resolution was carefully worded so as to contain no allusion either to the separation or to the debts due by England to the government of the United States. In practice it has always been found until now that these subjects are so closely linked together that each one of them leads logically to the other two. But three together are so unmanageable that England is beginning to look round for a way of dealing with the problem piecemeal, and Mr. Keynes was only approaching the same subject from a different point of view when he recently pleaded for the separate treatment of the reparation question and, like the bankers' committee, made no allusion to the other numbers of this perplexing economic trio.

Mr. Keynes was suggesting a practical solution of the reparations problem when he thought would give "real justice to France," and he recommended that the claim against Germany for war pensions and separation allowances as part of reparation should be dropped. This claim, he said, constituted nearly two-thirds of the total British claims, and the inclusion of pensions and allowances has "very nearly robbed the demand, which we are making on Germany," of its largely of its importance. A Great Britain, he urged that the claim was included at all, and American delegates at the peace conference were surprised that the French ever came to agree to it.

Memorandum by General Smuts. How the claim to pensions and separation allowances ever came to be admitted has been a puzzle which none of the Allies could solve since the conference of 1919. However, ever quite adequately explained, Bernard Baruch, in an appendix to his book, has published the text of a memorandum on the subject prepared by General Smuts, and it is interesting to find that the memorandum, which summarizes the case for including the claim, has given great moral authority to a proceeding which many observers had until then been inclined to characterize with Mr. Keynes, as a breach of the engagements entered into by the Allies when the armistice was signed.

The question has its moral and legal aspects which can only be left to the judgment of the individual. But the question of how it actually came about that the claim was included in a question of fact which deserves to be answered, and the following account of what happened comes from a source which may be considered as fairly reliable.

One Clear Distinction Omitted. That the terms of the armistice governed the terms of the treaty of peace and set limits to the demands which the Allies could make was never disputed at the conference, though Mr. Tardieu and other French authorities have disputed it since. Now the armistice made one clear distinction, but it omitted to make another. It confined the claims against Germany for reparations to the damage done to the civilian population in allied countries; but it did not make any clear distinction between direct and indirect damage. This is the gap through which the claim to payment of war pensions and separation allowances made its way into the treaty, and it was done in the following manner:

Direct damage was caused, for example, by the bombardment of Hartlepool to a shopkeeper whose shop was destroyed by a shell. Such damage could be reckoned at the replacement cost of the shop. But this was far

Constitution. BAD HEADACHES. FAINT, DIZZY SPELLS. Constipation is one of the commonest ills of mankind, and one too often allowed to go unlooked after until some serious complication sets in. A free motion of the bowels daily should be the rule of everyone who there will be no constipation, sick headaches, spells, dizziness, heartburn, coated tongue, foul breath, sour stomach, floating specks before the eyes, jaundice, water brash, etc. Keep the bowels properly regulated by the use of MILBURN'S LAXA-LIVER PILLS.

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Principal