

The St. John Standard

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

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Grand Central Depot, New York

Advertising Rates:
Contract Display, 4c. per line
Classified, 15c. per word
Inside Readers, 25c. per line
Outside Readers, 25c. per line
(Apostrophe Measurement.)

Subscription Rates:
City Delivery, \$6.00 per year
By Mail in Canada, \$4.00 per year
By Mail in U. S., \$4.00 per year

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

LLOYD GEORGE AT CANNES.

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 a 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 damage 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 550 gallons a year. This would mean a total consumption of 8,250,000 gallons, which would produce a tax of \$825,000. 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 \$375,000, which makes a total tax of \$1,200,000.

Of course we really appreciate the fact that from the standpoint of the Premier Government, an additional \$15,000 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. Kierstead and a lot of those other useless hangers-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 Hanser Greenwood, Arthur Griffiths and Michael Collins were received by the audience with hearty cheering, but Mr. De Valera's image was greeted with stony silence.

A CHEERFUL OUTLOOK.

Toronto Saturday Night—Sir Harry Drayton, as he is about to hand in his portfolio, issues a cheerful message. He says that notwithstanding a year of falling values and business difficulties the finances of the country have been wonderfully maintained. For the first eight months of the fiscal year, that is to December first, Canada's revenue has been near a million dollars greater than for the same period in 1920, the figures being \$565,721,000, as compared with \$564,975,000 last year. The figures for the same period in 1914 were \$81,400,000. How small that sum looks in comparison, and who would have thought back in those days that it would have been possible for Canada to raise such an enormous sum from comparatively so few people.

The sources of this revenue are also interesting. In the first eight fiscal months of 1920 the customs provided \$124,000,000; while this year for the same period the customs department gave us but \$68,000,000. On the other hand the income tax and the business profits tax provided \$53,000,000, as compared with \$28,000,000 for the same period last year.

Of course we are not paying our way, for in the period before mentioned we expended \$297,500,000. This included \$10,375,500 on capital account, \$52,943,214 for non-active investments (railways), a total of \$72,918,717. The expenditure also included \$106,511,326 for interest, \$21,820,062 for pensions, and \$9,589,206 for soldiers' civil re-establishment, a total of \$138,331,194. The increased cost of administration owing to the war and the railways is very apparent.

The actual increase of the debt for this eight months, amounts to but \$28,328,023, including capital and railway payments. Were these payments regarded as constituting investments and old practices as to capital be continued, the result of the eight months operations would be a surplus of \$46,188,585 over and above all expenditure, including war obligations. One may anticipate that next year there will be a large falling off in revenue from business profits and income tax sources, while the income from the customs department will witness radical changes are made in the tariff probably hold its own. It will be up to the new Government to scrape around and find additional sources of revenue and it is going to be one big job.

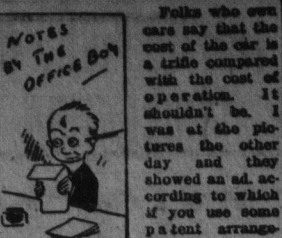
Of late years the Liberal party has been loudly proclaiming the necessity for reforming the Senate. The province has now been begun by the appointment of Mr. McColg, Liberal member for Kent, Ont. This step marks the direction to which Liberal opinion pointed as the proper method of reform. While Mr. King approves of Mr. McColg's appointment to a \$4000 a year Senatorship, to provide a seat for Mr. Murdoch, he objected strongly to a \$40 a month appointment for Mr. Casselman, to make a seat for Mr. McColg, whose presence in Parliament is of very much more consequence than Mr. Murdoch's.

Sir Robert Borden, Canada's delegate to the Disarmament Conference, continues to win honors at Washington. The satisfactory completion of the Chinese tariff finds the leading delegates, according to the press, smilingly congratulating Sir Robert on his work in this connection. But, as the Toronto Telegram says, best of all, Sir Robert has not been so busy on the Chinese tariff that he has failed to find time, when called on, to run in and sign his name as Canada's representative to any agreement the Disarmament Conference may have reached.

The capture of political prominence in Canada by a section of the country that did relatively little in the war, and that has been opposed to improvement in Empire co-operation, has been noted in Britain. It is a queer reaction from the war spirit, but as the Mail and Empire says, it does not at all represent the real feeling of Canada on Imperial questions.

The Woodstock Sentinel-Review calls attention to the fact that a Toronto judge has decided that "if a friend presents you with a bottle of liquor at his home, you may lawfully carry it to your own home, but you must not open it on the way." So far so good, but the great problem is to find the friend who is willing to present the bottle.

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



Folks who own cars say that the cost of the car is a trifle compared with the cost of operation. It shouldn't be. It was at the picture the other day and they showed an ad. according to which if you use some patent 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's 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 little 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 paradichlorobenzene. If there is anything in a name, this stuff ought to kill anything.

Americans appear to be going at this naval disarmament by degrees. First they scrapped the liquid form, then they 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 resolutions to pass into limbo, innocuous deities. 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 kisses and money are both prolific germ carriers.

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

The girl across the way says the best kind of husband should 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 Pitt, no paper in the country has defended the attack of Mr. King (upon Mr. McColg, 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. McColg in the most vicious fashion, is constrained to admit that there is no constitutional irregularity. The Bradford Express (Liberal) says the prime minister "has become needlessly fussed up," and declares that there has been no "high-handed and unwarranted cause," and adds that "Mr. King might well have shown a more generous spirit in this matter: The Hamilton Herald (Independent), in protesting against Mr. King's declaration, sums up:

"Mr. King appears to be afflicted with confusion of thought in this matter. But that is not important. The important thing is the regrettable lack of generosity (to put the case mildly) which marks Mr. King's protest. Evidently, having gained a political victory over Mr. McColg, the Liberal leader desires to instill personal humiliation upon his opponent. He would bar McColg from the House of Commons. It is not a pleasant spectacle."

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 could 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 and imports, 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 imports 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 itself. As times get better, imports are certain to increase, because times will get better through the absorption by Canada of foreign capital, and it is entirely possible, now, to be advantageous if it were, to continue for any length of time to export capital.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE
FRANK FEERNOT AND THE MILLIONAIRE

Some boys throwing snow balls 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. I'm rich. Frank Feernot. I'm 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. Hey, 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 plump. 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 meets!

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—that would be the first thing you would do?" "Count it," 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 the still, small voice of conscience reproach you?" "Yes, but I'd rather listen to the still, small voice than to hers."

Not Under Protest.
Wide—"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 to it?" 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."

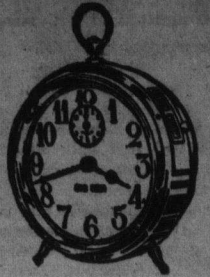
"Ah!" said the mother, you want to be bribed. You should copy your father and be good for nothing."

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

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GREAT BRITAIN CANCEL

Separate Phase of the Trifles is Advanced by Leaders.

London, Jan. 8.—The significance of the resolution recently passed by representative meeting of English bankers and business men on the subject of representations will not have escaped attention in America. With the chairman of one of the five great London clearing banks presiding, 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 separation or to the debts due by England to the government of the United States. In practice it may mean that the British Government will be found until now that these subjects are so closely linked together that each one of them lead logically to the other two. But the 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 reparations 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 reparations should be dropped. This claim, he said, constitutes nearly two-thirds of the total British claims, and the inclusion of pensions and allowances has "very nearly troubled the demand," which we are making on Germany. It was largely at this instigation that Great Britain, he argues, 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 included has been a puzzle which one of the conditions published since the conference of 1919 has never 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 the memorandum, which summarizes the case for including the claim, has given great moral authority to a proceeding which many observers and untold thousands of British people have then been inclined to characterize with Mr. Keynes, as a branch of the engagements entered into by the Allies when the armistice was signed. The question has its moral and its 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 is a question of fact, and it deserves to be answered, and the following account of what happened comes from the Christian Science Monitor 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. 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 Harlepool 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

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