

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921.

WAGES AND DEFLATION

A correspondent writes to an Upper Canadian contemporary complaining that the newspapers of the continent are trying to bring about a general campaign of wage cutting, and wants to know why they should be so engaged. He alleges that lower wages would mean fewer subscribers, and lower subscription rates and advertising prices.

It is true that several newspapers are telling their readers that wages have got to come down. But they are not doing it with any particular enthusiasm, for even newspapers do not consciously try to cut their own throats. The story is something that has to be told if a newspaper is to retain its title to public respect. The thing is bound to happen. The country that tries to postpone the inevitable is a country that is dooming itself to stagnation. We are in the grip of economic laws which work and will work whether we want them to work or not. The only way to minimize the damage is to draw attention to the plain fact, and to urge that the best policy is to "do it now" little at a time, so that the public will be able to follow the lead of the newspapers of Canada.

The newspapers of Canada would be doing a poor service if they tried to suppress the fact that Canada, too, must meet the new conditions which are shaping themselves in the world. It is altogether to their credit that, at the risk of losing friends in some quarters, they are putting the truth of the situation plainly before the public.

Great Britain is in the act of stripping for the industrial fray. It is discarding the economic war-tug and is already paying off its war debts at a rate that few people considered possible. Whatever happens, national efficiency will have to go. John Bull doesn't propose to be content just yet. And he knows that unless he is to be counted out he must get back to a business basis. He is doing that. The coal strike is only one of the wrenches that have to occur while he is readjusting himself and getting ready to show the world once again how to produce the best goods on earth at the lowest prices.

All other countries which hope to do business with the outside world will have to accommodate themselves to John Bull's pace. If they cannot make things of the same quality at cheap, they may abandon hope of selling against him. If they cannot produce what he has to buy at prices he can afford to pay he will get them somewhere else.

If Canada is to continue to be the "bread basket" of Great Britain it will have to supply the bread at a lower figure than other wheat-growing countries will offer it for, and other farm products will be available on the same terms only. But the Canadian farmer cannot produce at competitive prices unless wages and prices all along the line are scaled down into proportion. The economic basis of the Dominion is its exportable surplus of farm products. What it can get for these determines what rates of wages and standard of living can be obtained by Canadians in every occupation. And Britain is deflating its wages—and therefore, the price it will pay for foodstuffs—down to pre-war basis. Canadians seem to have just one choice as to what they will do. We must get "down to business" on the pre-war basis or go out of business. Of course, we don't like the idea, but that can't be helped.

ON SAYING "NO."

Admitted that it is not always an easy thing to say "No," the fact remains that it occasionally has to be said, and more often ought to be said when it is not. There is a natural hesitancy in turning down a request that one would like to grant if one could, particularly when it is not possible to explain why it must be turned down. But there are some people so constituted that they lack the moral fibre to turn down a request that they know very well cannot be acceded to, simply because they do not want to offend the applicant. They resort to temporizing in the hope that something will turn up to get them out of the difficulty. They leave their applicant with the impression that what he asks for he will probably get, well knowing that such a result is impossible, rather than tell him point blank that it cannot be done. The man who doesn't know how to say "No" when he himself must realize very well that he ought to say it, is only laying up trouble for himself in the near future. Sooner or later, the former as a rule—circumstances are going to transpire that will show up his weakness, and then trouble follows. When a man knows that a request made to him cannot be granted, it is much the wiser, if the less pleasant, course to take to tell him so, and have no trouble over it. To

lead another to think that something he wants he can perhaps have, when there is no real prospect of anything of the kind happening is not only ill-advised, but inconsiderate. It only raises hopes and expectations that later must be dashed to the ground. Then too to the man who helped to raise them. He not only loses the respect and confidence of the man he duped, but more often than not he makes an enemy of him. And then later he wonders why he was such a fool as to raise hopes that couldn't be realized. If a request has to be denied it is better for all concerned to deny it at the beginning; it causes less trouble and saves annoyance.

A SANE REPLY

More evidence is to hand that the foreign policy of the United States has taken a firmer grip in the reply to the German appeal for mediation. The United States could not do anything in the premises that would have been of any value to anybody, least of all to Germany. But there are different ways of doing nothing, and the United States chose the right one. If a cold application of force had not been necessary to make Germany realize her position, it would not have been invoked. It is hostile and disagreeable to the character both of good-natured Britain and chivalrous France.

Colonel Harvey, the new American Ambassador put the matter pretty strongly when he said:

"Germany lies prostrate, helpless, a skulking, whining suppliant at the bar of righteous justice. What her penalty shall be is no concern of ours. It must and should be fixed by those whom she most grievously wronged. Fifty years at hard labor she gave to prepare for her campaign of loot and lust. Fifty years at harder labor let her give to make amends."

"But we are told that Germany can't pay! Can't pay! With nine-tenths of her productive labor under arms she furnished seven billions a year for four years in her dastardly attempt to conquer the world. Surely in time of peace she can provide three billions a year for fifty years."

What the Bishop said to the commercial traveler when he swore over a joint mishap rises to the mind. "Thank you my dear sir. There are occasions when the services of the saint are absolutely indispensable."

WHERE IS THE ORGANIZATION?

Once upon a time there was a Saxon King in England who became known in history as Ethelred, the Unready, because, although his kingdom was incessantly being overrun by the Danes, he was never prepared to meet them. If the Liberal-Conservative party in this province—and this country particularly—ever gets its due, it will be remembered for a similar reason. When an election comes round the party is never ready for it.

We have time and time again during the past few months urged upon the Liberal-Conservative party the necessity of getting its electoral machine in working order. For all the good our urgings have done, we might just as well have never said a word. Things are just drifting along in the easy-going, happy-go-lucky way that they have always done, and nobody cares. The Liberal party is not working on these lines at all, but just the same it is quietly working away, and getting the various organizations in readiness for the fray, the very moment the call comes.

Organizing for a Federal campaign and for a Provincial campaign are not quite the same thing and there have been in the past some little differences in the make-up of the organizations. There are quite a number of electors who although they have usually professed Liberal leanings and support the present Provincial Government party, are nevertheless in sympathy with the present Government at Ottawa. For this reason it is not always possible to have one organization for both kinds of campaigns. However, there is no Provincialist distrust due for a long time yet, but there is a Federal contest to be faced in the near future. And nothing is being done by the Liberal-Conservative party to deal with it. There is not the slightest need to wait for the Convention that will be called at no distant date; preliminary preparations can be got under way without waiting, so that progress can be reported to the Convention when it is called. It is no use to lock the stable door after the horse is stolen.

One can learn to turn the other cheek or suffer in silence the afflictions of Job. But he can't seem to get used to taxes, or love those designated to collect them.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Respectfully.
 When Uncle Sam says to John Bull, "If you will try to bear with my damn fools, why try to bear with yours," that's hands across the sea.—Life.

The Same Old Breed.
 Opposition members who would cut down the militia estimates are of the same breed as those who pursued similar tactics almost up to the opening of the great war.—Hamilton Spectator.

Not So Tight-Fisted.
 Ontario will view reports of tight-fisted farmers in a different light now. Peter Smith's big provincial over-draft and the bonus of \$600 to all the members of the House, are sufficient evidence.—Sudbury News.

"A Reasonable Suggestion."
 Because of Mr. Carvell's hostile attitude towards the public ownership of railways, the Ottawa Journal suggests that he should retire from the chairmanship of the Dominion railway board. The suggestion is a reasonable one. It is not right that Mr. Carvell should use the chair of the chief member of the national railway board as a rostrum for the purpose of discrediting the railway policy to which this country is committed and not very well get away from—Hamilton Herald.

The Headquarters of Harmony.
 Somebody once observed that the one good thing that could be said about war was that it improved the citizen's knowledge of geography. The Citizens' Liberty League has possibly the same idea about the referendum. For thousands of people are asking where Vermont is.

On April 18, 1921, Vernon started to thunder down the annals of history as the first place where everybody agreed on anything. It went wet, 254 miles, Prince county, P. E. I. Her father was of United Empire Loyalist stock. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wright, formerly of Wright's Mills, Prince county, P. E. I. Her father was of United Empire Loyalist stock. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wright, formerly of Wright's Mills, Prince county, P. E. I. Her father was of United Empire Loyalist stock. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wright, formerly of Wright's Mills, Prince county, P. E. I.

A BIT OF VERSE

WHO SHALL JUDGE

A thousand things may bless or curse,
 Depends on how you use 'em.
 The better of a thing or worse
 Depends if you abuse 'em.
 If prohibition's right, then God
 After an hour of sobbing
 Has made a curse if from the sod
 It turns a crop that's growing.

I do not know why He made wine
 If it was not for drinking;
 And love, and speech, and thought
 Must it cease for fool thinking?
 And if intolerance be right
 And principles don't matter,
 Who'll be the judge when comes the fight
 'Twixt thin, and fat, and fatter?

The vegetarians say that
 Beef eating is a horror,
 And turkey and good chickens fat
 Have caused this world much sorrow.
 The light will be at no far day,
 Instead of booze and luscious,
 The merits of nutmegs,
 Or string beans versus mushes,
 No more will water-flow in streams,
 Because boys-down while swim-
 min';
 They'll ditchpans each fellow's
 dreams
 To keep if they're of whimmin'.
 The ladies, ah, the precious dears,
 They being now men's equals,
 What of their plight, what of their
 tears
 When published are the sequelae?
 T. A. B.

THE LAUGH LINE

Costs may not make the man, but
 lawsuits make the attorney.

The Spryng Poets.
 Lee birds rejoice o'er spring's advance
 And put their souls in verse:
 But reams of stuff at which we
 glance,
 Ye gods, could not be worse!
 —Birmingham Age-Herald.

Making Men of Opportunity.
 "Why are you so naughty, Johnny?
 It seems to me that with mamma
 worn out and papa with a broken arm
 you might try to be good."
 "Oh!" said Johnny, "that's just the
 time to be bad; no one can lick me."

Thoroughly Convinced.
 "Say, old man, do you believe in the
 transmigration of souls?"
 "No; do you?"
 "Most certainly I do; and I am
 thoroughly convinced that I was an
 ass at the time I lent you that ten-
 pound note."—Pearson's Weekly.

The Difficulty.
 One of the doctors says it is wise
 to be in good humor when eating.
 But you can't always be sure that
 the other fellow is going to insist on
 paying the cheque.

Speeding the Parting.
 Host—So sorry you have to be go-
 ing.
 Guest—Indeed I am, too. By the
 way, I'm not sure about my train. It's
 nine something but
 "Hill's little engine," 9:32. Pa said
 he hoped you'd take that one.—Boston
 Transcript.

Yes, Sir!
 "Yesir, eighty-two I be, an' every
 tooth in my 'ead same 'as the day I
 was born!"
 —London Mail.

Benny's Note Book

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. Warm and warmer.
 Spooria. Battling Pads Slimkins and Leroy Kid Shooter
 put on Pades new boxing gloves for a 8 round fite wich lasted
 7 rounds last Saturday. Round 1—Pades landed the first blow
 by backing Leroy in the stumick with his hed. Leroy kick-
 ed Pades in the shins to prove it wasn't fair to buck with your
 hed. Pades kicked Leroy back to prove was fair for one is fair
 for 2. Round 2—Neither of them had recovered from round 1
 yet, so they shook hands and agreed to call it a tie.

Sladey. Mr. Sam Cross was observed wawking on Broad
 Street with Miss Maud Jonson last Sunday, wawking in such
 a slasy way everybody thawt he was stuck up till they found
 out his new shoes was too tite.

Pome by Skinny Martin.
 DARN ALL ERRANDS.
 I was going to run away from home
 And only return to die,
 But my mother suddintly spoiled my plans
 By sending me for a can of lye.

Intriguing Facks About Intriguing People. In a conversation
 on Benny Potters frum steps about wat they was going to be
 on they grow up it was found out that Reddy Merly is going
 to be a genral in the army or a admiral in the navy wichever
 is most convenient, Sid Hunt is going to be a pararchute drop-
 per out of airplanes, and Benny Potta, Ed Wernick, Lew
 Davis and Skinny Martin are going to be candy tasters.

OBITUARY

Mrs. George Steel.

The death occurred last evening at
 her residence, 133 Main street, of Mrs.
 George Steel, wife of Rev. George
 Steel, D.D., after a lingering illness.
 She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
 George Wright, formerly of Wright's
 Mills, Prince county, P. E. I. Her
 father was of United Empire Loyal-
 ist stock. She was the daughter of Mr.
 and Mrs. George Wright, formerly of
 Wright's Mills, Prince county, P. E. I.

In Carmarthen street church, this
 city, she began her duties as min-
 ister's wife, Chatham, Portland, Sac-
 ville, Redouge, Shediac were the other
 fields in which she served. For the
 last eight years her husband being
 superintendent of Methodist missions.
 She was connected with the Portland
 street church. In nearly all those
 charges she rendered excellent ser-
 vices as Sunday school teacher. In
 Portland, however, she spent her
 energies almost entirely in behalf
 of the Women's Missionary Society.
 As a missionary leader she greatly
 excelled. Besides her husband there
 are left Professor G. Douglas, of
 Charlottetown; Fergus, merchant of
 St. John; Vernon, manager of the
 Canadian Bank of Commerce at
 Chatham, Alberta, and Arthur, of St.
 John. Her only child, Frances, was
 last year married to Rev. George D.
 MacLeod, and is at present engaged
 in Presbyterian missionary work in
 British Guiana. It was her mother's
 great joy to have her engaged in this
 work, and the one message she wish-
 ed to send her daughter was to carry
 on in the missionary work which was
 so dear to her mother's heart.

Her surviving sisters are Mrs.
 Charles Full, of California; Mrs. M.

M. Rogers, of Charlottetown. Her
 brothers are Mark Wright, of Victoria,
 B. C., and G. Dudley Wright, of Char-
 lottetown.

ITALIAN STEAMER.

London, April 27.—The Italian
 steamship Monte San Michele, which
 left New York February 2, last, with
 cargo of grain for Genoa has been
 given up for lost and was today ad-
 ded to the grim list of "missing
 ships," which is posted by Lloyd's.
 The Monte San Michele was a ship of
 6,000 tons gross register, and carried
 a crew of 45 men, signed on in Italy.
 She was built in 1919, and was origi-
 nally known as the War Odyssey.

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 frown, at times in order
 to see well, and this
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 and the plaster cracks.
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 jack the house up and put
 in new sills.

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 ed sills in stock.
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Fire Almost Wiped Out Quebec

Dozen Places of Busi-
 ness
 Three Residences
 at Shawville.

Ottawa, April 27.—The
 fire of the business section of
 Quebec, is in ruins today as
 a fire which broke out at
 about 4.30 o'clock. A row
 of the damage is between
 \$70,000 the greater part
 covered by insurance.
 Fully a dozen places of
 three residences were de-
 stroyed, and the greater part
 of the business section was
 destroyed.

CIRCUIT COURT

The case of C. R. Gern-
 W. Brown and B. V. Mc-
 tained yesterday in the C.
 before Mr Justice Crook-
 ments to the original plea
 objected to by counsel for
 ants, and the matter was
 stand over for decision. I-
 ing the plaintiff was on the
 told about the contract ac-
 cations he had with the
 He concluded his evi-
 afternoon, and the rest
 was taken up with the re-
 sence taken under com-
 New York state. The co-
 journey to 10.30 this morn-
 the plaintiff's case will be
 M. G. Teed, K. C., for
 Dr J. B. M. Baxter and Ger-
 for the defendants.

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