

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1919

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WILSON AND ITALY.

President Wilson has again taken the centre of the stage. He has politely but firmly informed Italy that the United States cannot support her claim to the port of Fiume, on the eastern shore of the Adriatic. The Italian delegates declared they would leave Paris today unless their claim was recognized by the peace conference. President Wilson's clear and uncompromising statement leaves them no alternative but to modify their demands or withdraw from the conference.

Fiume is the natural trade outlet of new states being carved out of the old Austro-Hungarian empire. Since that empire is dissolved and can no longer be a menace to Italy, President Wilson holds there is no ground for the Italian claims, and the Associated Press today says it is learned that under the treaty of London, formed before Italy entered the war, Fiume was to go to Croatia. It is quite easy to realize the feelings of the Italians toward their ancient foe, Austria, and their desire to make them secure against future invasion; but, as President Wilson points out, the whole map is changed and there are new states to be brought into a league of nations. They have a right to fair consideration, and the American president is unable to see why Italy should pursue a grasping policy rather than one of friendly conciliation.

Italy will hardly go the length of breaking off negotiations. One of the things for which President Wilson contends is that there shall be no more secret treaties. It is agreed to there will be fewer awkward complications in the future. Meanwhile Italy will be well-advised not to push her territorial ambitions too far. We may assume that France and Britain are not averse to the attitude of President Wilson.

AMERICAN BOLSHEVISTS.

There is a radical section of the Socialist party in the United States which proposes to substitute "mass action" for political or legislative reform. In other words, it sympathizes with the methods of the Russian Bolsheviks and German Spartacists. There are 8,500 active members of this wing of the party in Cleveland, Ohio, and they recently nominated C. E. Ruthenburg, their leader, for mayor of the city. In an interview he said:

"The indorsement of the left wing programme means the repudiation of all purely political or legislative reform and the substitution of mass action by the workers. This means that we will hereafter cease to participate in election campaigns for the immediate purpose of effecting social reforms, but will use political action only as an educational weapon. As set forth in our official programme, political action, revolutionary and emphasizing the implacable character of the class struggle, has now overthrown the old idea of attempting to carry out various local reforms such as better housing or municipal ownership of street lines. For this, we have substituted the industrial revolution as the only means of overcoming the capitalist state. Our programme provides that the party must 'teach, propagate and agitate exclusively for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of socialism through a proletarian dictatorship.' I do not consider my nomination for mayor as being the important part of the programme adopted. Our campaign will be for the purpose of education and to carry on the general propaganda for the organization of workers in the industries through shop organizations and shop committees, which will eventually take control of industry and establish industrial democracy. It is the mass action that will count in the future warfare against the capitalist state."

All this must be very interesting reading for the American people, the more so that there are branches or locals of this Bolshevik wing of the Socialist party in many cities. They stand for "warfare" and not for conciliation. They would disrupt the social fabric and establish "a proletarian dictatorship" of the merits of which Russia affords ample evidence. Such doctrines as theirs will not appeal to the great mass of the people of the United States.

Only yesterday, in Paris, Hjalmar Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, warned the Socialists of France against Bolshevism and its "proletarian dictatorship," declaring that Soviet government meant misery and famine. He further declared that under it democracy could not be preserved. It is the other extreme of Prussianism.

Will St. John have a clean-up week? There are special reasons after a comparatively mild winter for a thorough cleaning of yards, alleys, houses and streets, in order that the plague of flies may not begin early and stay late, and that the destruction of germs may be accomplished before their busy season opens. It is perhaps too much to expect that there will be any large or general use of paint at present cost, but there is nothing to prevent a general cleaning campaign, which is in the interest of public health.

A vigorous and well-fed Rumanian army would do more than anything else to bring the Hungarians to their senses. Their experiment in Bolshevism is not doing them any good.

HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

It will interest New Brunswick readers, who have learned of the coming conference in this city to form a province-wide organization to boost the province, that our neighbors in Maine are getting together for a similar purpose. The Bangor Commercial says:—

"Co-operation to the point of making Maine a bigger, better, more progressive, more enterprising and a more successful state, agriculturally, commercially and financially, was the keynote of a meeting held Friday evening at the Congress Square hotel, Portland, when the newspaper men of the entire state were the guests of the State Agricultural and Industrial League. The meeting was arranged as a get-together conference, with the idea of asking the co-operation of the state of Maine in the effort to place the old Pine Tree state in its rightful place among the other states of the Union."

The Commercial report says that Mr. Willis B. Hall called attention to the fact that within 500 miles of Portland 25,000,000 people make their homes, yet these people are transporting supplies that Maine can furnish from a distance ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 miles. Mr. Charles H. White noted the fact that last year a million pounds of pork was imported into the state, when it was possible for this product to be raised at home. He also touched on the subjects of timber, hay, corn, seed potatoes and the like and gave substantial reasons for large enterprise in each of these lines. Mr. Charles F. Taylor of New York, is thus reported:—

"Maine, he said, has been standing still while other states had been going ahead. Where this state had, once a quarter of the population of New England it now had about a tenth. The boys are going away from the state and the trouble was that they were losing at the top, the educated boys and the enterprising boys being the ones to leave. On this account Maine was gradually losing its leadership in men for which it was once famous. Then he took the affirmative side showing how Maine raised corn, wheat, oats and other grains more profitably than other states. The highest profit per acre in the best of the Middle West states he said was \$2.40, while in Maine the average was \$41. Maine had great water powers going to waste. Moreover, he could live more cheaply in New York than in Maine, and the reason was that Maine imported so much of the food-stuffs she should raise herself."

Mr. Taylor's remedy was for the people to get together and to learn the large way of handling business from production to marketing, cutting out the economic waste that now prevails. This is sound advice. Let us hope the get-together movement in New Brunswick will break down all barriers of local prejudice and stir all the people with a common enthusiasm for the upbuilding of the province.

The Standard appears to think that the Foster government needs a book-keeper. It may be so. Premier Foster and his colleagues show a lamentable lack of ability to cook the public accounts as was done in the patriotic potato case; and they have never been able to find a man who could go out among the lumbermen with a notebook and pencil and add \$100,000 to the party fund. Neither have they ever been so sure of themselves as financiers that they could toss twenty-thousand dollar packages carelessly around, or pick up \$32,000 over-night. In short, they have much to learn from the friends of the Standard in matters relating to high finance.

The west wants tariff reduction, and will be satisfied with no half measures. The Grain Growers' Guide says:—"There is an earnest hope all over these prairie provinces that the western members will not be satisfied to continue their support of the government unless there is a real, genuine reduction of the tariff when the budget is announced by the finance minister. There is an absolutely overwhelming demand for tariff reduction in these three provinces. Never was the feeling so strong since the first settlement of the west. Party alliance has been laid aside, and with one mind the western farmers are demanding freedom from the oppression which the protective tariff places upon them."

A bill to establish vocational schools in all school districts in Michigan having more than 30 pupils has passed both houses of the Michigan legislature. And in St. John we are still waiting for the appointment of that vocational training board—for a city with thousands of pupils.

BACK TO OLD TIME AGAIN. Imperial Theatre goes back to the old Standard time when it resumes its pictures tomorrow and will remain so while the general confusion lasts over the mixed time, excepting when traveling companies are playing in the theatre off and on.

To Get German Ships. Buenos Aires, April 24—Germany has instructed the Argentine government to deliver interned German steamers to the United States. The American embassy has announced its readiness to take over the vessels. The transfer is expected within a few days.

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THAT MINORITY REPORT

Some Observations in an Incident of Closing Hours in the Legislature

(Fredericton Mail.) Had the legislature taken any other course than it adopted on Thursday night in regard to the so-called "minority report" of the Public Accounts Committee, which B. Frank Smith and those who followed him, J. K. Pinder and George B. Jones, endeavored to have placed on the records, it would have been itself ridiculous for all time to come.

The action of Speaker Hetherington in ruling out Mr. Smith's motion was in accordance with the rules of parliament, and even if such were not the case the average layman will readily concede that his decision was based on common sense, and in keeping with the dignity of the legislature and manifestly in the public interest. Can humankind conceive of such an exhibition of colossal nerve as was disclosed by the spectacle of B. Frank Smith standing up in the legislature and on behalf of himself and those other eminent purists, J. K. Pinder and George B. Jones, finding fault with the system of accounting employed by the controller general, and accusing the government of following loose business methods. It was not his wonder that what his friend, Mr. Smith, had planned to stage in the evening, was moved to expatriate on the masterpieces of Gilbert and Sullivan in the comic opera line. Indeed, "Pinafore" and the "Pirates of Penzance," cited by the ex-attorney general would have been knocked completely over the ropes and off the stage had Pinder and the Patriotic Potato pirates been given an opportunity to put on their little stunt during the closing hours of the legislative session. That they did not get the opportunity was due to the alertness of that veteran parliamentarian, Hon. C. W. Robinson, who called attention to the irregularity of the proceeding.

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St. John West

ings and raised a point of order which was sustained by Speaker Hetherington. The course adopted was the proper one and will be appreciated by a discerning and intelligent public.

In this connection it might be said that the methods employed by Messrs. Smith, Pinder and Jones in the handling of the "minority report" was not only in accordance with the rules of parliament, but also in keeping with the dignity of the legislature and manifestly in the public interest.

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I shall be at my St. John office, Robinson Block, Market Square, for six full days, Monday, April 21; Tuesday, April 22; Wednesday, April 23; Thursday, April 24; Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26; office hours 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. Also at Fredericton at the Queen Hotel, Tuesday, April 29 and Wednesday, April 30. Office hours 9 a. m. until 6 p. m.

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of public business and public funds are already a matter of record, having been very fully set forth by three separate

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royal commissioners. They are methods which the people of the province do not want to see practiced in connection with the conduct of public affairs, so the legislature on that ground alone was fully justified in giving their proposals a short shrift and adopting the public accounts committee's report as signed by the chairman and a majority of the members of the committee.

The financial methods which Messrs. Smith, Pinder and Jones are known to favor were practiced by the old government to the great detriment of the province. The present government pledged itself to do business on different lines and is honestly endeavoring to carry out that pledge in the interests of the province.

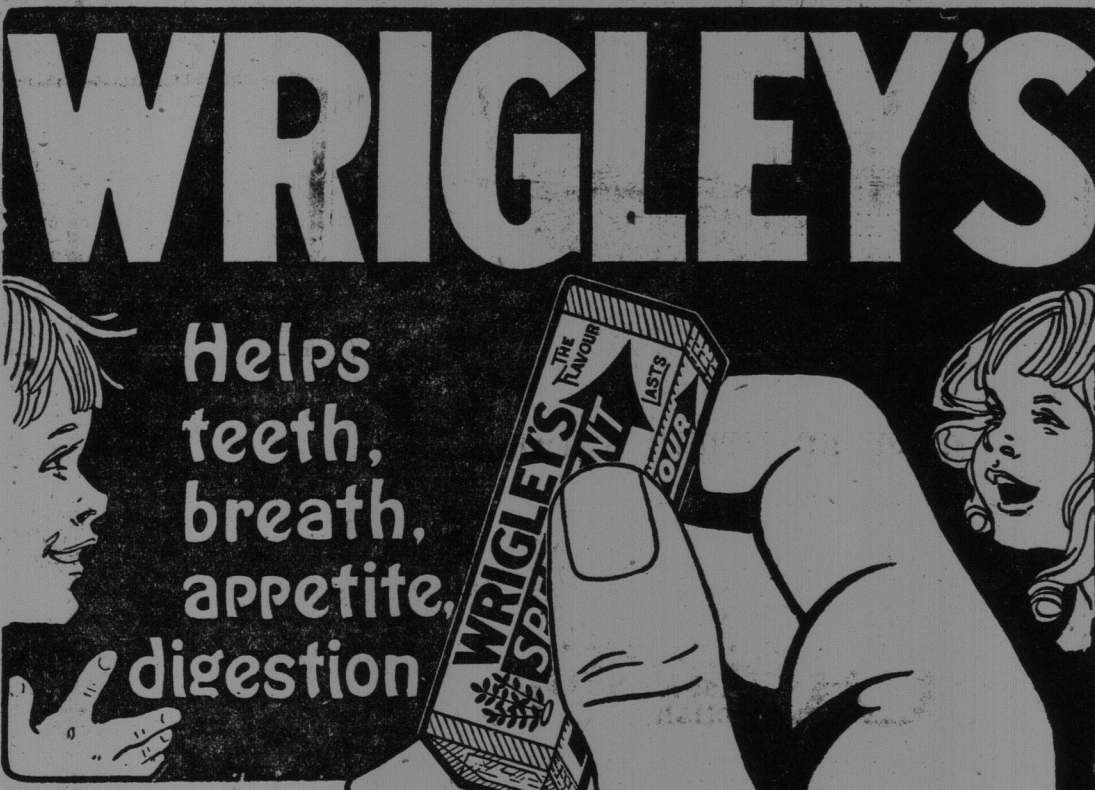
W. R. Stewart of this city was the maritime representative of the Dominion Rubber System at the dinner, given by Charles B. Seger, newly elected president of the Canadian Consolidated Rubber Co., in Montreal on Wednesday.

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