

The St. John Standard

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AMERICAN REACTION.

The fact that Germany seized the opportunity of the withdrawal of the United States from the Allied Council to make protests against provisions of the Peace Treaty has evidently aroused the anger of American soldiers, and Republican Senators are expressing a willingness to reconsider the Treaty. By sending artillery across the Rhine the Allies have apparently overcome German obstinacy, but the episode of the revival of German truculence is likely to have a pronounced effect upon public opinion in the United States. When the United States finally came into the war her soldiers were in the main persuaded that they were embarking on a crusade, and if through the defection of the Washington Government Germany was able to evade just punishment for her crimes the ex-service men of America would undoubtedly be mad. Mr. Polk doubtless had this possibility in mind when he stated the other day that though Republicans and Democrats might have differences they were both agreed on one point—that Germany must fulfil her obligations.

American soldiers did not return home with any very warm feelings to France, believing the French to be a nation of profiteers, but experience of the home brand of profiteering may have moderated their feelings in this respect. But if Americans are not much concerned whether or not the action of Washington leaves France in the lurch, giving Germany an excuse for transient insolence, is another matter—a thing the American soldier can only contemplate with chagrin.

PROTECTION IN NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand is showing a new interest in tariff protection as a means of encouraging the development of its industries. The Industries Committee of the New Zealand Parliament has recently brought in a report, strongly recommending general tariff revision, and the immediate adoption of an Anti-Dumping Act similar to that in force in Canada. The Committee reports that nearly all the secondary industries of New Zealand are threatened by competition from abroad, and advises the Government that in many cases, even where protection is now given, further assistance in the form of duties or bonuses are essential. The Committee approves of a substantial preference to the Mother Country, but recommends that New Zealand's ordinary tariff should apply to other British Dominions not extending favorable treatment to New Zealand. Further recommendations are that the reciprocal treaty entered into with South Africa in 1907 be revised, and that an attempt should be made to enter into a reciprocal agreement with Australia and other British Dominions for the interchange of certain products. The imposition of a surtax of 50 per cent. on any goods coming from countries with which the Empire has been recently at war is also approved. Generally the Committee recommends the Government to impose tariff duties sufficient to secure a fair and reasonable profit to local manufacturers, subject to the condition that manufacturers should produce articles equal in quality and workmanship to imported products and at a price approved by the Board of Commerce.

MIDDLE CLASS POLITICS.

In England a Middle Class Union is in process of formation, and there is much talk of running middle class candidates for Parliament. All sorts of middle class representatives from poets to clerics are talking about the rights and wrongs of the middle classes to more or less large and enthusiastic meetings. But so far the agitation does not appear to have developed any definite policies likely to unite the bourgeoisie on a programme of political action. Whether the middle class in England or anywhere else can establish itself as a serious independent political organization is problematical; but they undoubtedly have political power if they want to use it, for they form the backbone of the existing parties. In Russia the bourgeois intellectuals made some progress towards political power, only to perish before the uprising of the sinister forces of Bolshevism under the leadership of intellectuals like Lenin and Trotsky. There are great difficulties in the way of the middle classes agreeing upon a political policy which could be adopted by all their candidates, because their material interests attach them to one or the other of the existing parties.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

In his annual report Secretary of Agriculture Houston points out that the production of United States farms in 1919 was three times greater in value than the annual output during the five-year period preceding the war. In 1919 the value of American farm crops was \$15,875,000,000, compared with an average of \$5,329,000,000 for

the five previous years, 1913 to 1918. Even allowing for increased prices, a very substantial development of United States agriculture is indicated. There has been a big increase in the acreage devoted to cereals, and also in the number of live stock.

According to Secretary Houston the American farmer produces 2.5 times as much as his German and Belgian rivals, 2.3 times as much as the British farmer, 3.2 times as much as the French, and six times as much as the Italian farmer. With some prospects of a better system of distribution, setting the farmer still higher prices, Secretary Houston anticipates a further stimulus of agricultural production in the States. Canadian farmers who are becoming interested in the idea of free trade with the United States might study Secretary Houston's report with advantage.

MORE TROUBLE FOR THE ALLIES.

The overthrow of the Danish Cabinet appears to have been due to its attitude to the Allied proposal regarding the re-annexation of former Danish territory. The Allied proposal was that Denmark should take over portions of the territory wrested from her by Germany. Either because it feared to give offence to Berlin, or did not want to include many Germans in its territory, the Danish Cabinet rejected this proposition, and requested that the fate of the areas in question be decided by popular vote of the inhabitants affected. This cautious policy has not proved acceptable to many Danish patriots, who assert that Plesborg, for instance, is a vital part of Sleisvig, though its population is now largely German. The new Cabinet is expected to request that the original proposal be carried out, possibly with a demand for a substantial modification of the three small zones delimited for plebiscites. Whatever attitude the new Cabinet takes it is likely to raise further embarrassments for the Allies, for the reopening of the question at the present time is bound to prove a difficult business.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.

Price Bros. & Co., of Quebec, have commenced the erection of a newspaper mill in the Saguenay district with a capacity of 400 to 500 tons a day. This will be the largest pulp and paper mill in the world. The project involves the creation of a town of 7,000 people. The company is also enlarging their plants at Jonquiere and Kenogami. Canadian paper mills now turn out 2,200 tons a day, as compared with United States' output of 2,900. When their Saguenay plant is completed Price Bros. will have an output equal to nearly two-fifths of the national production. Commenting on the Price Bros' project, the Quebec Chronicle says: "It is fashionable at this moment to worship at the farmer's feet, but in the long run Canadians cannot fail to recognize the decisive part that the manufacturers have played in the upbuilding of a great and prosperous Dominion, and among these the Ancient Capital may hold itself fortunate to be intimately linked with such a progressive, patriotic firm as that which has now bent its energies to capture first place among the world's producers in its own particular commodity."

NAVAL ESTIMATES.

The British naval estimates for the current fiscal year total £157,528,800. Britain's net naval estimate for 1914 amounted to £51,550,000. Her naval expenditures during the war were as follows:
 1915-16—£205,733,597 net.
 1916-17—£209,877,218 net.
 1917-18—£227,358,891.
 1918-19—(Estimated) £325,000,000.
 Britain's naval expenditures reached their maximum in November, 1918, when they amounted to £6,750,000 per week, or at the rate of more than £250,000,000 a year. The estimates for the current financial year make provision for various unforeseen expenses incurred during the past year. Increases over pre-war estimates are largely accounted for by the fact that increases in the cost of repairs and new construction have been more than doubled and pay of officers and men have increased about 100 per cent. The sum of £240,800 has been received from India and the Colonies as contributions towards naval expenditure. India heads the list with £100,000 for maintenance of His Majesty's ships in Indian waters, and £2,400 for Indian troop service. South Africa and New Zealand contribute £85,000 and £25,000 respectively for the general maintenance of the Navy. Canada and Australia jointly contribute £24,400 on account of liability for retired pay and pensions of officers and men lent from the Royal Navy, while Newfoundland contributes £5,000 towards the maintenance of a branch of the Royal Naval Reserve.

The Scotsman, of Edinburgh, and other British papers, published the

following despatch from Reuters, a very reliable news agency:

"New York, Dec. 4.—The Chamber of Commerce in New York has adopted a resolution declaring that 'to drop the Treaty of Versailles and seek a separate peace with Germany would not only imperil American business interests, but would be a base abandonment of our Allies and our own principles.'"

WHAT THEY SAY

Would Help Canada.

A "Buy in Canada" campaign might encourage the movement of American capital and enterprise to this country. Today the United States has much capital seeking investment, but it will not be utilized to develop industries here if American products find an easy sale in Canada. If American or British capital is encouraged to come here by patriotic buying, American and British immigrants will come here, too, and business generally will be stimulated, and a larger home market developed for the farmer as well.

Holding Others to Scorn.

The bankers and we suppose most bank shareholders, belong among the people whom Premier Duffry of Ontario thinks of as plutocrats—the people he evidently had in mind when the other day he described the present chief issue in Canadian politics to be battle between "the plutocrats and the democrats." He was picturing the farmers' party as being the needed champions of true democracy, and his use of the word plutocrats was obviously intended to hold up, to scorn as plunderers some of the other classes of the community. But with eggs selling at a dollar and here by cents a dozen, milk at fifty cents a gallon, apples at ten dollars a barrel and wheat at \$2.50 a bushel, and the farmers denouncing any attempt to fix prices, while the bankers are doing business at the same old rates, one can't help admiring the nerve of the leader of the embattled farmers when he talks about the fight the farmers are putting up against the plutocrats.

Physician Heal Thyself.

(Indianapolis Star.)
 In advising the miners to go back to work some of our garrulous members of Congress might profitably take a little of their own medicine.

They Need It Badly Enough.

(Kansas City Star.)
 Some of the actors ought to welcome the theatre closing order, for it will give them an opportunity to stay at home and practise.

"Involuntary Servitude."

(Boston Transcript.)
 While "What shall I profit a man?" the labor leaders should give a thought to the involuntary idleness thrust by radicals on many labor union men who would like to work, but are not allowed to.

Censorship.

(London Free Press.)
 Hon. Peter Smith is right—only a "good, broad-minded woman who can see the funny side of life as also the serious side," would be serviceable on the censorship board for moving pictures. The world needs laughter as, perhaps, never before in its history—the clean laugh is one of nature's best tonic. But see to it that it is clean.

A Post-War Incident.

(Springfield Republic.)
 There are now pending in the Paris courts 125,000 divorce suits, one for about every five families. Misconduct by the husband is among the leading designated complaints, and the theory is advanced that the war's coming of the soldier to cruelty and suffering is a main cause. It is an interesting point for the psychologists but certainly the war has given no reason for modifying Sherman's definition.

Public Indifference.

(St. John Standard.)
 A curious feature of the recent Winnipeg election was that in spite of the grave character of the issues involved only about half of the registered voters went to the polls. That in the circumstances there should have been so large a neutral element is a matter of some concern for those who believe in democracy.

A BIT OF VERSE

SEE YOU THE DIMPLED?

(Rudyard Kipling.)
 See you the dimpled track that runs,
 All hollow through the wheat?
 O that was where they hauled the guns
 That smote King Phillip's fleet.
 See you our little mill that clacks,
 So busy by the brook?
 She has ground her corn and paid her tax
 Ever since Domesday Book.
 See you the windy levels spread
 About the gates of Rye,
 O that was where the Northmen fled
 When Alfred's ships came by.
 See you our pastures wide and lone
 Where the red oxen browse?
 O there was a city thronged and known,
 Ere London boasted a house.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Pop was in the setting room holding his hand to his head, and I was setting on the floor, and pop sed, Now Benny, far be it from me to ask you to stop breathing or otherwise impairing your health, but I have a little headache and it would give me great pleasure and comfort if you could get along with an absolutely minimum amount of noise. Do you know what minimum means?

No sir, does it mean less than usual? I sed.

Well, in this case, it does, sed pop.

And he kept on holding his head, and I thawt a wife, and then I sed, If I jest made sounds like different birds, would that be a minimum noise, pop?

It would not, and I positively forbid it, sed pop.
 Even if they was all as little as sparrows and canaries, pop? I sed, and pop sed, I don't care if they're all as little as fees and infocenza germs, kindly drop the subject, the very thawt of it makes my head ache worse.

Yes sir, I sed. And I thawt another little wife, and then I sed suppose I gave a imitation of 2 clocks striking 12 at the same time, would that be a minimum noise, pop?

Absolutely not, don't you dare, sed pop.

Well, how about jest one small size clock striking 12 all by itself? I sed.

Not even a lady's watch, now for the love of Peet lets call the discussion settled, sed pop. Meaning not to ask him about any more minimum noises, and I sed; Well jest one more, pop, suppose I—

Suppose you clear out of heer in dubble quick time, or elts suppose I dust your pants for you with a minimum amount of tenderness, sed pop.
 With I cleared out.

And see you after rain the trace
 Of mound and ditch and wall?
 O that was a legion's camping place,
 When Caesar sailed from Gaul.

And see you marks that show and fade,
 Like shadows on the Downs
 O they are the lines the Flint men made,
 To guard their wondrous towns.

Trackway and Camp and City lost,
 Salt Marsh where now is corn;
 Old wars, old Peace, old Arts that cease,
 And so was England born!

She is not any common Earth,
 Water or wood or air,
 But Merlin's Isle of Glamour
 Where you and I will fare.

A BIT OF FUN

Sufficient For Him.

There's a Bible paragraph that begins, "What shall I profit a man?" And right there the profiteer drops the Scripture perusal and devotes his whole attention to finding the answer.

Space at a Premium.

Knickor—This will be a difficult Christmas.
 Boker—Yes; what with the liquor, coal and sugar, there is no place around the house to hide a present.

Should Be.

Concern advertisers for "some irresponsible party to assist our new 10c sanitary kitchen utensil." This job should be over-subscribed.

Fortune-Telling.

A fortuneteller was sending cold streams of horror down her victim's back as she predicted the bad things in store for him in the immediate future.

"You will die in a year!" she said, at last. "This line in your palm tells me so."

"Help!" gasped the victim. "It surely cannot be as bad as that?"

"As I said," continued the seer, "you will die in a year—but what year I cannot say."

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He Ought to Know.
 A soldier from the front applied to the hotel for a job as cook.

"What can you cook?" asked the hotelman.
 "Anything, sir," was the reply.
 "Well, how do you make hash?"
 "You don't make it, sir," said the soldier. "It just accumulates."

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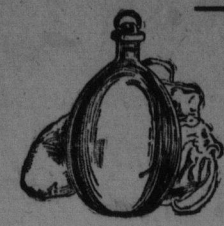
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