

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1919.

### PRESIDENT ON LABOR.

A feature of President Wilson's message to Congress is his hearty and unreserved recommendation of the labor clauses in the Peace Treaty which Premier Borden was largely instrumental in having adopted. The President says:

"The establishment of the principles regarding labor laid down in the covenant of the League of Nations opens to us not to pursue this one longer to invite animosity, bitterness and antagonism, which in the end only lead to industrial and social disaster. The unwilling workman is not a profitable servant. An employee whose industrial life is hedged about by hard and unjust conditions, which he did not create, and over which he has no control, lacks that fine spirit of enthusiasm and volunteer effort which are the necessary ingredients of a great producing entity. Let us be frank about this solemn matter. The evidences of world-wide unrest which manifest themselves in violence throughout the world bid us pause and consider the means to be found to stop the spread of this contagious thing before it saps the very vitality of the nation itself. Do we gain strength by withholding the remedy? Or is it not the business of statesmen to treat these manifestations of unrest which meet us on every hand as evidences of an economic disorder and to apply constructive remedies wherever necessary, being sure that in the application of the remedy we touch not the vital tissues of our industrial and economic life? There can be no recession of the tide of unrest until constructive instrumentalities are set up to stem that tide."

The President supports collective bargaining, and the right to strike, but urges the setting up of arbitration tribunals to adjust the difference of capital and labor the application of the principle which the world would set up as a remedy for war. He declares that the only way to prevent men agitating about grievances is to remove the grievances. Repression, he declares, is the seed of revolution; unwillingness to discuss grievances can only stir up more discontent, and strengthen the hands of the agitators who would achieve their purposes by violent methods. He points out that Europe built up the prosperity of its classes by keeping labor underpaid and hopeless, and that now Europe is reaping the fruits of its policy in class hatred and antagonism, prostration of industries, and general anarchy and uncertainty. And he calls upon America to lay the foundation of its future prosperity upon the basis of recognition of the right of labor to some voice in the control of the condition of work, and a wage permitting some comfort in life, unhampered by the fear of unemployment and poverty in old age.

### DEALING WITH UNREST.

President Wilson's message to Congress deals at great length with the political unrest in the Republic and the controversy between capital and labor. First among the causes of this unrest he puts the failure of the American Government to arrive speedily at a just and permanent peace, permitting a return to normal conditions—which is an emphatic slap at the Senate. Among the subsidiary causes he enumerates the transference of radical theories from seething European centres, pending a peace settlement which he evidently believes is necessary to prevent the European countries boiling over; heartless profiteering and the increase in the cost of living; and lastly the machinations of passionate and malevolent agitators.

The President thinks that with the return of peace conditions this unrest will rapidly disappear. In the meantime while it is doing much evil he advises that Congress in dealing with this situation should not be impatient or drastic, but should seek rather to remove the causes. He observes that Congress should endeavor to bring the country back to a peace basis as speedily as possible, and ameliorate living conditions, without imposing more restrictions on personal liberty than are necessary to meet the problems of reconstruction.

The President urges that the Federal Government be armed with authority to deal in its criminal courts with those who by violent methods would abrogate the time-tested institutions of the country. He would have no interference with the free expression of opinion, or with the advocacy of orderly political change, however fundamental, but he would show no leniency towards passion and malevolence, tending to incite crime and insurrection under the guise of political evolution.

To allay the unrest the President urges the extension of the present Food Control Act, and more vigorous action to abolish the abuses of price manipulation. He throws some light on the comparative failure of the campaign against the high cost of

living by pointing out that though Congress had made funds available to carry on the campaign it had not authorized the expenditure of the money for the purpose of making the public fully informed about the efforts of the Government—which suggests that Congress knows how to tack reservations on other things than the Peace Treaty.

### INCREASED INSURANCE.

President Day, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, says that the volume of new insurance which the life insurance companies of the United States will write in 1919 promises to reach the enormous total of \$7,712,000,000. This is \$3,010,000,000 or 64 per cent. more than was written in 1918, and \$4,613,000,000 or 148 per cent. more than was written in 1914. This new insurance equals one-fourth of the entire insurance in force at the beginning of the present year. It is a remarkable evidence of public confidence in insurance companies.

During the year there has been a big increase in the amount of insurance taken out by employers on behalf of their employees, and it is estimated that the dependents of one million workmen are now protected by life insurance without cost to them. But every walk in life has contributed to the general increase of insurance.

During the war the United States Government raised and spent thirty billion dollars, the great proportion of this amount being distributed in the United States. The circulation of this money has stimulated business, and led to a regime of extravagance and prodigality unparalleled in history. At the same time the enormous increase in insurance indicates the existence of an unusual spirit of thrift. Owing to the increase in prices, men have doubtless taken more insurance to give their families equal protection to what they had before the war. The educational campaigns of the insurance companies were given new significance by the fact that the Washington Government insured the soldiers and sailors, while the loss of life from the war and the influenza epidemic greatly stimulated interest in the importance of insurance as a protection against the uncertainties of life.

### THE SALARY GRAB.

The Montreal Herald, a leading Liberal paper, expresses astonishment that the Leader of the Opposition at Ottawa should have drawn down \$19,000 in salary and indemnity during the current year, a sum greater than that drawn by the Prime Minister. It points out that in the year 1914 when two seasons were held Sir Wilfrid Laurier declined to accept a salary for the second session, and as Sir Wilfrid drew up the Act providing for the payment of a salary to the leader of the Opposition it may be presumed it was never the intention to pay two salaries in one year. The Liberal organ says Mr. Mackenzie was not really leader of the Opposition, as the caucus elected J. A. Robb chairman, and merely designated the member from Cape Breton as spokesman on the floor of the House. That, says the Herald, makes the case all the more conspicuous, and it would seem now to be graceful on the part of Mr. Mackenzie to return that extra \$7,000.

Mr. Mackenzie may have decided that his distinguished service to the nation entitled him to his fine salary, or that his tenure of political life was likely to be so brief that he had better make hay while the sun was shining. In any case he has given the country abundant proof that he was not worthy to step into Laurier's shoes, as some purblind partisans wanted him to do.

Sir Vincent Meredith, President of the Bank of Montreal, says there has been no reaction from the feverish activity and high prices brought about by the war. Nor does he see any signs of an immediate reaction. He thinks there will be a continued demand for our agricultural and manufacturing products for some time. The high cost of living he regards as partly a consequence of the large volume of currency in circulation, but thinks currency inflation is not an unmitigated evil, inasmuch as it serves to check imports and stimulate exports. To decrease inflation he says there must be an increase of gold reserves, and this cannot be accomplished speedily. To uphold Canada he says there is need of increased production and exports and more immigration, and in order to export this country must supply credit to overseas customers.

### WHAT THEY SAY

**Tried It Times Enough.** (Baltimore American.) Mexico is evidently trying to see how far she can go in trying the peace and forbearance of the United States. She ought to have emphatic satisfaction on that point.

**A Simple Rule.** (N. Y. Herald.) Governor Coolidge, of Massachusetts, says that minorities cannot rule

in this country. That is what a great many persons have been saying all along while certain things were being "settled" without the concurrence of the voter at the polls.

### The Spirit of the Sinn Fein.

(New York World.) Having greeted with jeers a passing reference to the President's ill-health a Sinn Fein meeting in New York city, presided over by a Justice of the Supreme Court, boomed and hissed every mention of a general strike as a "friend of the British." Comment seems quite superfluous.

**The Effect of Work on Princes.** (From the New York World.) Belgian Level of Prices Dropping—Headline.

This is because the Belgians have gone back to work. The other Allied belligerents are still on strike, and their lever of prices is still up.

**The Falling Mark.** (London Morning Post.) In Germany now you need a great number of marks to take you a very little way. A bill for a modest lunch for two at a hotel restaurant in Frankfurt, known as a good and cheap place before the war, is forwarded as a curiosity by a correspondent. The lunch consisted of fish at 150 marks and goose at 150 marks. The charge for bread was 14 marks, potatoes at 10, and butter at 10. The total amounting to 338 marks, or over 3 1/2 in English money, supposing the mark to stand where it stood.

### Scotland's Opportunity.

(London Daily Chronicle.) In the clash of arms it seems to have been overlooked that Scotland will next year have an opportunity of becoming "dry" if it feels so disposed. By the Temperance (Scotland) Act 1913, which comes into force on the first day of June, 1920, the municipal electors are the power of dealing with the liquor trade. Upon the demand of one-tenth of the electors in any area a poll shall be taken, and they can vote on (1) no change; (2) allowing one-fourth of the public houses; (3) prohibition. In speculating on the possibilities of this situation it must not be forgotten that the women electors are almost as numerous as the men.

### A BIT OF VERSE

**MOONSPUN.** (By Anne Virginia Culbertson.) My dreams are moonspun Out of dew and midnight sun And pale night blossoms silver-kissed; From hazy fragrances that haunt the air As if the wreaths of flowers breathed faintly there.

From shadowy trees that shiver silent; Hiding their thrills of secret ecstasy; From eerie sounds that softly, strangely float in some sphere where sound and silence meet.

In these dear dreams is nothing fully shown; All is half guessed at, all but partly known. I would not have it otherwise than this; Therein is hid the secret of their bliss. Did not the All Beneficent foresee The dear delight of mystery? Full knowledge were too heavy a sun— This dream of life is best moonspun.

### A BIT OF FUN

**Silence is for the Vanquished.** "Say pa, I had a fight with Jimmy Green today." "Did you whip him?" "Gee, pa, ain't I tellin' you about it."

**Ingenious Father.** "Pop, won't you do something for Mamie and me?" "What is it you kids want?" "Well, you tell us the beautiful fairy tales ma says you tell her?"

**Figure it Out.** The Householder—How's this? Your price is \$5 for moving that table and your regular rate is \$1 for each piece of furniture?"

**The Van Man.** "That's all right. You see, the legs of the table got knocked off on the way and that made four extra pieces."

**Three Sexes.** Teacher—"How many sexes are there?" Little Boy—"Three." Teacher—"What are they?" Little Boy—"The male sex, the female sex and the insects."—London Ideas.

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## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

**THE PARK AVE. NEWS**  
**Weather.** Thaw's of Christmas.  
**Sports.** A setting down race took place last Saturday afternoon, the object being to see who could go from the lam post to the telegraph pole and back to the lam post setting down on the pavement and not using anything but their feet and their setting position. Skinny Martin won by half a pavement, and 2 of the racers wore holes in their pants and 3 had thin places that will probably be holes pretty soon.  
**Amusement.** After a meeting Sunday afternoon on Pads Sinkiness front steps, the following announced that they would dasher not get any useful presents this Christmas such as clothes: Benny Potts, Pads Sinkiness, Artie Alexander, Leroy Shooter, Sid Hunt, Ed Wernick, and Lew Davis.  
**School Notes.** Reddy Merry got excellent in conduct on his report this month for the first time this year, saying it must be some mistake and he is going to kick about it.  
**Slamety.** Just as Miss Mary Watkins was going to get up on her pony for her horseback riding lesson last Saturday the pony hit her in the face with his tail, Miss Watkins saying it was a meek accident, however.

**Poem by Skinny Martin**  
Just before the Licking.  
I shelled 30 English walnuts  
For my mother to put in a cake,  
And when I realized I had ate more than half the inside,  
How my peas together did snake!

### NEW CANADIAN PACIFIC TOURIST CARS

Did you ever examine the cars in which you travel year after year and notice the improvements made for your safety, convenience and comfort? The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has just perfected a new type of tourist car, of steel construction. The outstanding advantages of the tourist car are that it is more economical, though less luxurious means of traveling, than the Standard Sleeper, and also that a woman can prepare her own food in her own way in the kitchen car at the end of the car. For those who desire a trip at the minimum cost, the tourist car is ideal.

The new car remembers the babies, and so, besides the range, it possesses a gas stove, where mother may speedily warm her baby's bottle for him. She can keep his bottles in the refrigerator, where a receptacle is specially provided for milk bottles.  
She washes her dishes in the enamel sink, drains them on the sanitary metal dresser and puts them away in a shining white cupboard. No boards to scrub off, with a consequently unpleasant smell of damp, greasy wood. The metal meal is hygienic and will not rust.

When the children want a drink—as they do twenty times a day—they no longer require to enter the dining room for it. Two water coolers, with sanitary cups, occupy a corner of either passage, easily accessible.  
She who has never banged frantically on the dressing-room door can never realize all the agony a woman lives when she knows her station is the second one off—and some headless creature hods up the room. Happily the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has cared for the poor soul; now she may share a room large enough for three women to dress at one time. There are three basins with a mirror over each, a long mirror in one door, and a curtain inside the entrance to protect one from any chance newcomer. The clean towels are packed in a box, the soiled ones go into a basket under the box. These rooms are absolutely sanitary—open plumbing sees to that.

The car, proper, contains fourteen sections, is finished in mahogany and rejects in a strip of carpet down the middle of the floor.  
"How light it is," a chance visitor remarked. "This extra light is due to the windows having brass sashes—the pane is set divided, and the wood does not encroach on the glass. There are no deck sashes, only panel sashes."  
"Porter, a success, please," will soon be heard no more. The new cars keep the screens in position constantly, so that when the glass goes up, the screen comes down over the entire 19 1/2 inches.

If one requires a porter during the night, all one does is "push the button." Each berth has an electric light and a push bell, and, joy of joys, a mirror. No excuse now for parading the aisle in curl papers. The light under each berth shines out on the floor and saves the shins of many who might stumble over baggage in the darkness of the car at midnight. The berths are comfortable, the improved ventilation makes cinders an

"unknown quantity," so the women who travel in them are sure to say that the New Canadian Pacific Tourist Cars spell Travelling Comfort.

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