

The St. John Standard

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WESTERN LANDS.

Here is how the Provinces figure it out. At the time of the creation of Alberta and Saskatchewan, control of public lands was retained by the Federal Government and certain subsidies for these Western Provinces were arranged. All other provinces received subsidies based on their population, etc. Today these Western Provinces wish to obtain control of their natural resources, and have made application to the Federal Government with this end in view. This was one of the subjects discussed at the recent Inter-Provincial Conference in Ottawa.

The Eastern Provinces have no objection whatever to the Westerners getting this control, but feel that the lands should not be handed over to them for nothing, because of the fact that in days gone by the Easterners, forming the older provinces, paid for those resources to a far greater extent than have the Western people who have been living in the West for only a few years. And as the Eastern Provinces have no such wealth to be given to them, they should obtain, in any readjustment, their proportionate share of the value and wealth turned over to the West. By our contributions to the Dominion revenue, we have paid for those lands, and if Alberta, Saskatchewan, etc., are to be given control, then those Western Provinces, through the Federal Government, should recompense us for what we have expended.

"Now," say the Easterners, "let us find what is the value of these resources. We admit that the Western Provinces have contributed to some extent towards their present value. Very well, let the Western folks continue in the enjoyment of such proportion as they have paid, but as regards the balance which we have contributed, let it be capitalized and apportioned to the Eastern Provinces and the interest returned to us in the form of increased subsidies. By such method as this we will obtain a very largely increased revenue from the Federal Treasury, and living will be made easier for us, just as it will be for the Western Provinces."

"Fine, very fine, indeed," is the Western reply. "We agree to this with one slight alteration—that you in the East have no business to base your claim on the present value of the lands and other resources. We, by the organization of communities, by our own enterprise, and by little assistance as we have obtained from the Federal Government and elsewhere, have created the present value of these lands. All you did in the East was to provide the original purchase price, while by our own efforts we have so augmented the value of these resources that their present value is very greatly in excess of what you contributed to their cost. And you have no right whatever to this increment which is entirely unearned on your part, and is due wholly to our own efforts. Therefore we are willing and will meet your wishes in requesting the Federal Government to apportion among all provinces on the basis of population, the actual cost price to you of these resources, together with legal interest and charges of administration from the time you first became interested. This, you will observe, is a very much smaller amount than the present value of the lands, but it is the only amount in which you can have a direct interest, and beyond this we will not go."

This, then, is where the hitch comes. The Eastern Provinces claim readjustment of subsidies on the present value of the Western resources, while the Western Provinces insist that the unearned increment belongs to them, and the East is entitled only to its share of the original cost.

THE SOLDIER INFLUENCE.

It is altogether improbable that Canada will experience another civil general election in the next generation at least. The experience of other countries, following important wars, is that those who have remained in civilian life during the course of the conflict have been compelled to give place, to a considerable degree, to those who have actively participated in the strife. In the United States, following the close of the Civil War, many soldier candidates presented themselves for election to office, either federal or state. Campaigns were carried not alone on the ability of the candidate running, but largely on his record as a soldier. The country was submerged in a wave of sentiment by reason of which issues of ordinary political contests were forgotten and votes were cast for or against the candidate largely on the ground of his military record.

In Canada we have not always selected candidates for parliament because of their special fitness for that position. True, we have done so in the majority of cases, but all know of instances in which the respective party nominees have been chosen through the belief that they could poll more votes than anyone else available. Nevertheless our selection of representatives will be influenced by the sentiment created during the past few years, and there will be, as there always has been in other countries, the

tendency in some constituencies at least, to select as candidate one who enjoys a clear-cut record of service at the front.

In our last election we experienced for the first time the soldier vote—the vote cast by some hundreds of thousands of men apart from us, who were seeing things from a different angle and who had acquired impressions not easily felt by those remaining at home. That influence was slight in comparison to what we will experience when the men return and take the active part we know they will take in public affairs.

We need not, however, fear that results will be detrimental to the being of Canada. There will be no injection of militarism in our public life by reason of the return of our soldiers, but rather may we expect to find them more eager for those policies which make for peace than we are ourselves. They understand war, we do not, and while our sentiments may be strongly opposed to the idea of force, their sentiment in that direction will be even more strongly marked because of the vivid experiences which they have undergone. In the mass of men who will return to Canada during the next year there will be many better fitted than ourselves to view in their proper way questions of international importance, who will have a deeper understanding of human nature and who, applying themselves to economic problems which legislators are called upon to face, will bring fresh ideas and a wider knowledge than most of us have hitherto enjoyed. We may look to a strong soldier influence in our political life, and we may expect it to be a beneficent influence.

CALLING THE BLUFF.

"If the provincial opposition had been able to foist a coalition arrangement upon the local government a year ago—and the attempt was made," Telegraph, Nov. 30, 1918.

This is not the first time the Telegraph has made editorial reference to what it is pleased to term an attempt on the part of the Provincial Opposition to bring about a coalition arrangement. That newspaper has been challenged before to produce facts in support of its allegation. It has not done so. The Standard, in the name of the Provincial Opposition, once more challenges the Telegraph to give the name or names of the member or members of the Provincial Opposition who made or authorized to be made the proposition to which it refers; the person or persons to whom the proposition was made; and the details of the proposition.

WHAT THEY SAY

We, said the Allies! Boston Transcript: Who won the war? Belgium did when she caused the German advance to stub its toe at Liege; France did when she turned the Germans back at the Marne. Britain did when she seized control of the seas, bottled the German fleet, and blocked the German ports. Russia did when she mobilized ahead of German calculations and forced the High Command to divide its armies. Italy did when she engaged Austria's attentions so thoroughly that the latter could not go to the aid of Germany. The United States did when at last she arrived on the scene with men and material sufficient to administer the coup de grace to the Teutonic dream of world empire. Serbia, Rumania and Montenegro also did their part. In short, and better still, we all did.

The Hun Atrocities in Africa. London Daily Telegraph: The vilest atrocities of the Congo and of Putumayo were faithfully imitated in South Africa with characteristic German thoroughness, and the illustrations in the Blue Book throw a ghastly light upon the text for the clearly revealed German method of hanging natives—deliberately designed to prolong the pain of death. It is difficult to write calmly of the infamy of such enormities and of the callous indifference of high German officials, who brushed all complaints aside as unworthy of attention, because of the culture status of the Hereros and the Hottentots was so inferior to the German. But we refuse to believe that anyone who reads this Blue Book will ever listen to another argument in favor of restoring Southwest Africa to Germany.

We Owe it to Christianity. Col. Watterson in Louisville Courier-Journal: We must do nothing in passion, in haste. We owe no retribution to Germany, or the Germans. But to our own honor, behind us two centuries of Christian history, before us the rule of eternity and the grace of God, we owe the homage of a sublime duty, sanctified by Heaven and irradiated by the precepts of Him of old, who died upon the Cross that we might live, leaving us the blessed heritage of a religious system, which, except in theory, we have nowhere and nowhere observed.

Government Insurance. Indianapolis News: The government is preparing to reimburse the lives of soldiers and sailors on their return to civil life. All of the men now in service will have the option of changing their war risk policies for ordinary insurance such as twenty-payment life insurance, maturing at the age of sixty-two, or into other recognized forms. This insurance will be arranged by the government and not through private companies.

Just Girl, After All! Los Angeles Times: She wore khaki pants, flannel shirt and a cap, with a pencil behind her ear, had a business-like looking leather money

pouch slung from a strap over her shoulder, and looked like a war-time laundry wagon driver or collector. Yet in passing a street mirror she pulled a charming rag out of her pants pocket, gave her nose a few dabs and straightened her cap. La femme sternelle.

A BIT OF VERSE

Mistress of the Deep.
Around thy central, northern sea,
And by the shores of gallant France,
Where'er the ocean's waters be,
Or seas at oceans look askance,
Thy countless standards wave and roll,
And guide and guard, sustain, control.

O mighty and mysterious force,
That looms and fades upon the deep,
And o'er thy myriad-branched course,
Dost cascade, fearless vigil keep—
I fear the silence deep, profound,
To break that doth thy might surround!

The glories of the ancient ships,
Of English oak in thee do merge;
Their forms, in luminous eclipse,
Sink down below yon distant verge—
Whirl them, in darkness or in light,
Dost move on guard, by day, by night.

Though winds and waves in wildest
Seek to engulf, or drive to doom,
The God that rules the raging storms,
Is still thy trust in watery tomb;
Nor dost thou flinch from foes unseen—
The lurking mine, the submarine.

But, lo! the startled silence splits,
And splinters simultaneously!
While lightning leaps and mean and bits,
Are strewn upon the distant seas:
Thy lightning goes the way they came,
And Teuton ship is but a name.

And still, upon its solemn rounds,
The rhythmic roll and muffled sounds;
And well, indeed, it e'er behooves,
Each hostile ship afar to keep;
Nor tempt the mistress of the deep.

Oh, never can thy praise be sung,
In fitting numbers, old or new!
In vain our multi-lingual tongue,
Dost strive to paint thy deeds so true,
When naught the holy quiet mar,
Thou borrowest silence from the stars.

Up from the bottomless abyss,
Thy clouds of smoke do ceaseless rise,
Apollon delights in this;
And each new swarm of locusts flies,
To torment, in the silent feast,
The worshippers of the wild beast.

How vain all striving to express,
Thy steadfast course in Duty's ways!
All words their weakness do confess—
Drop, fall and vanish while we gaze—
And silence brings, for thy renown,
Her brightest and most glorious crown.

Then let me close my feeble song—
Refrain from words so weak and cold,
Enough all day, and all night long,
War's balances thy hands do hold;
While God looks down and smiles on thee,
The guardian of humanity.

—Thomas Packer.
1164 Dundas St. West,
Toronto.

A BIT OF FUN

Fate's Football.
When something goes wrong and
Fate seems against you, you may derive
comfort from knowing that considering the
troubles—
Whose horse went dead and his mule went lame,
And he lost his cow in a poker game,
And a cyclone came on a summer day
And blew the house where he lived away.
Then an earthquake came when that was done
And swallowed the ground that the
house collector he came round in.
Then a tax collector he came round in
And charged him up with a hole in the ground.

Nothing Doing.
"I love the country," said the young
city man on vacation, "because every-
thing smacks of freshness."
"Perhaps it does in some parts,"
replied the rural maiden, "but
freshness gets no smacks here."

Forbidden Diet.
"Now, getting down to brass tacks,"
continued the sidewalk manager,
"why—"
"I haven't," interrupted the Human
Ostrich, who had been ill. "The doctor
says I mustn't touch solid food for
at least a week yet."

Doomed.
"It is all nonsense to tell you that
this clock will last a lifetime."
"Why so?"
"Because you can see for yourself
that its hours are numbered."

VLADIVOSTOK

The first mail from St. John members of the Snowball Brigade has just been received from Vladivostok. One friend from this city, in addition to personal news of a cheerful nature, sends along the following description of Vladivostok itself, which should prove of very great interest:

Vladivostok.
The Eastern Bosphorus (Hammelin Strait), leading between Muraviev promontory and Kozakovicha island, is three quarters of a mile in width at its eastern entrance, and it extends two miles in a northwest direction to the entrance of Vladivostok harbor. Vladivostok point has barracks on it. Vladivostok harbor is entered on the north side of the Eastern Bosphorus Strait between Tigrovoy point and Cape Galdobin, where it is nearly 1 1/2 miles wide, from which it extends 1 1/2 miles northwest, and then turns eastward for about 2 miles, forming the Golden Horn, the approach to which is deep

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

There was a little fire on Berk Street last Saturday morning, the fire engines coming but they mite as well not of, and a reporter came around to see if anybody was hurt or anything, asking Benny Potts and Leroy Shooter and Ed Wernick were Berk Street was, and they told him and gave him their names to put in the paper. Which he wrote them down, but after supper they couldn't find them there, spending about a hour looking but not even seeing anything about the fire.

Fashion Notes.—Mr. Lew Davis was going to sew a button on his coat about 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, only by the time he got the needle threaded, it was time to go down to supper.

Mr. Ardie Alexander held a reception Wednesday afternoon in the barber shop while he was getting his hair cut, among those present standing there tawling to him being Mr. Benny Potts, Mr. Charles (Puds) Simkins and Mr. Ed Wernick.

Pome by Skinny Martin—"FALTS HOPES"—
I watched a colored man drying his face,
After he washed it with water and soap,
Thinking maybe the color would come off on the towel,
But did any of it? Nope.

Military News.—Kaplin Sam Cross, of Company B, is very patriotic, and last Thursday he got out his box of paints and painted a flag on the back of his father's new automobile, saying, the next time he was allowed out that there's such a thing as being too patriotic.

throughout and is accessible to all classes of vessels by day or night. The service of icebreakers makes it possible for the harbor to be reached in winter, but the fog in the western entrance is not breaking, being rather used as a means of communication between the shores.

Several stone buildings belonging to military hospitals are located on Eggerscheld point. The first part of the northern shore is taken up with the town and further eastward are the dry docks, arsenal, barracks and naval hospital.

A wharf of masonry extends from Eggerscheld point nearly to the volunteer fleet pier, and from that pier to a breast of the bazaar; large vessels can go alongside near Eggerscheld point.

Southeast winds prevail in summer and northwest winds in winter, the atmosphere is more or less saturated with moisture in the former season, and extremely cold in the latter.

The town of Vladivostok, which occurs most frequently in May, June and July, the last being the foggiest month of the year, with an average of fifteen days thick and eight days of thin fog, the months from October to March are almost free from fog. The average of foggy days during the months that navigation is open is 27 1/2 per cent. during the three summer months 6 1/2 per cent.

Ice-breakers keep a channel open during the winter months, one of which is able to maintain a speed of five knots through six inches of ice.

The town of Vladivostok, whose name signifies "Guardian of the East," is Russia's only developed port in the Far East, and may be regarded from one point of view as the most important Russian city east of the Urals. It is located on the Southern extremity of a peninsula extending into the Great Gulf, and is rather picturesquely situated on a small bay which forms an excellent natural harbor, and which has been named the "Golden Horn."

The principal articles of export are soja beans, peas, wheat, provisions, buckwheat, cotton stuffs, barley, fish, fresh, dried and salted; metalware, etc., and imports, iron machinery, drugs, colors, beer, glass, porcelain, furniture, cement, manufactured goods, coal, etc. the former were valued at \$10,000, and the latter at \$2,500,000 in 1910. In 1911 the coal imported was 68,562 tons.

In 1911 the port was entered by 616 steam vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 975,818 tons; 56 steamers being British.

Climate.
The climate is healthy on the whole, but Europeans suffer from catarrh of the stomach, and fevers are prevalent in the marshy districts.

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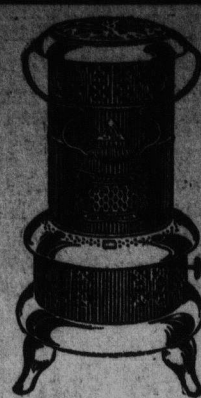
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