

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1921.

LLOYD GEORGE'S TROUBLES.

The British Premier's lot at this time is not a happy one. Troubles surround him and seem to increase. At home and abroad a difficult problem confronts him. The labor situation, while it has some sign of improvement, is still bad. With many men who will not work because there is nothing for them to do, and more who will not work because their trade unions have ordered a strike, there is a vast army of unemployed, involving much distress as well as economic loss to the nation. Indeed, it is feared that the situation is so grave that the by-elections in England are being against the Government, even strong Conservative divisions which are not prepared to elect Liberals, are returning men who are not friendly to the coalition. An "anti-waste" campaign in which large military and naval expenditures are severely criticized seems to be gaining force. In foreign affairs too there are grave difficulties. The Balkan situation is disturbing. The relations between Britain and France are not as cordial as they were. Disorders in Egypt and in India give cause for some anxiety. Political prophets are predicting that Mr. Lloyd George will see in all these difficulties a reason for seeking a fresh mandate from the electors and that an early general election may be looked for. Such, however, does not necessarily follow. Mr. Lloyd George has pulled through situations quite as bad as that of today, and he will probably still keep his luck. His ability and political skill are undoubted, and he is strengthened by the fact that there is no unity in the ranks of those who oppose him. Unless Liberals and Laborites can find a common ground of action, the Lloyd George coalition will carry on for a while. Britain will "muddle through," all right.

WAGES AND THE COST OF LIVING.

The announcement of a twelve per cent. average wage cut for railroad employees under the United States Railway Labor Board in a decision applying to 104 roads is a definite move for the reduction of the higher wage levels and a lowering of costs between the producer and consumer. The decision will undoubtedly be a strong influence in the establishment of labor values in other fields of industrial activity. The wages of the railroad workers have been regarded as representing the key-stone of the new labor arch, as they were established while the roads were under government control, and, therefore, represented a political rather than an economic adjustment on the basis of supply and demand. The move to reduce wages of union members will, as the Financial Post says, of course, be fought by the professional labor leaders, but there is a growing appreciation on the part of the workers generally that the cost of production must be brought down to the adjustment of the cost of living, to secure advantage of the low prices for natural products and raw materials. At the same time, economists see the necessity for establishment of a new balance of relationship between employer and employee, producer and consumer, and argue that this the labor leaders must be willing to meet new conditions, or trade unionism will stand to lose many of the advantages gained in the last twenty-five years, during which period constant development and prosperity have given capital and management an opportunity to meet the demands of the unions. The railroad wage reduction is estimated to lift \$400,000,000 off the annual pay rolls of the systems affected in the United States. But the benefits to the eventual consumer will be much greater, because of other reductions in wages and lower costs of transportation which will be brought about. When visiting the White House recently, Charles M. Schwab told President Harding that "the crying need of the nation at present is to get some relief from the almost intolerable transportation conditions." Continuing, Mr. Schwab declared that the country's return to normal business conditions hinged on the transportation problem, both rail and water. He illustrated his point by stating that he used to sell pig iron for \$14 per ton, while it now cost that much in transportation charges alone for every ton that is turned out of the mills. A similar point was made in Toronto a few days ago by Arthur Hewitt, general manager of the Consumers' Gas Company, who pointed out that it now cost more to transport a ton of coal from the mines than the total cost, including duty, laid down in Toronto five years ago. And, to repeat, railroad wages are but one factor in the

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Six Million Capitalists.
There are 6,000,000 families in the United States who own their own homes. This is an amazing statistic, especially in a nutshell—Boston Shoe and Leather Reporter.

Regulate the Wife Market.
Great Britain will not allow the tribes between Liberia and Sierra Leone to charge more than \$25 for a wife. At least the high cost of living is coming down somewhere—Baltimore American.

Bolshevik Efficiency.
The British trade agreement with Russia has belied both the hopes and fears aroused by it. The truth seems to be that Russia is so measureless a buyer or seller for years to come—Toronto Globe.

Another Win for P. R.
Proportional representation has won another victory. The committee of the House of Commons appointed by Premier Lloyd George to investigate "P. R." is better than the present system whenever more than two candidates are contesting a riding. As proportional representation works in the same manner as the prevailing system where there are only two candidates, the report is a strong endorsement of the new plan of registering the vote—Toronto Star.

The Blessings of Work.
All work counts—high or low, drudgery or creative, the potboilers of the architect, building, weaving, farming, sweeping, selling, buying, investing, work is valuable. It is a blessing to have it, a disgrace to dodge it, a sin to avoid it. Great men work, noble men work, honest men work, all men worthy the name work. Without it we die and with it life assumes value, becomes important, is worth its price. Work is the world's health food. And yours!—New York Commercial.

An Urgent Need.
The Canadian Manufacturers' Association concluded its convention in Quebec by reiterating its plea to the Federal Government to set up a research institution to study the cause of unemployment. The senators must surely realize by this time, after the loud chorus of disapproval which has followed their action, that the measure of the comparatively small amount in tended for national research purposes, that they have made a very serious mistake. A mistake, however, which can be rectified, and now that such a decisive expression of opinion has been given by those most competent to judge of the value of the measure, it is to be hoped that the Government will take the necessary steps to reintroduce the subject and give the senators a chance to redeem themselves—Hamilton Spectator.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE OLD QUADRILLES.
Far, far away in the Ozark hills,
The young folk dance the old quadrilles.
Overalls and shirts of blue,
Cowhide boots and jumpers, too,
Their swaying bodies all keeping time,
To the fiddlers' tune, and caller's rhyme.
"First couple out, and lead to the right,"
Follow the girl with the eyes so bright,
You all jump up, and never come down,
The holler of your foot makes a hole in the ground,
"Ala! man! ala!"
Around the hall."
Laughing Janie, her eyes full of joy,
Shyly watches the fiddle boy,
Playing, as he never played before,
For her to dance on the punchon floor.
"Do so do,"
And your beau roosters in the centre, four hands swing,
Your partner off on the ground,
Whirl the girl from Arkansas,
Chaw more tobacco than yer Paw Paw saw,
Saw more wood than yer Maw kin saw,
Dance with the girl from Arkansas,
Around the hall."
"Turkey in the Straw," "No More to Roam,"
"Arkansas Traveller," "Home Sweet Home,"
"Gitt your partners, last set of all,"
Gaily they follow the old-time call.
"Chase that 'possum, chase that squirrel,"
Follow that pretty girl 'round the world,
Chase that rabbit, chase that coon,
Follow your honey 'round the moon."
The dancers fit, their laughing calls,
Echoing through the forest halls,
Over the hills to the mountain home,
Pretty Janie follows alone,
Through the glade and down the swale,
Past the church, and in the vale,
By the cool swift brook, where willows mock,
Pausing to lave her weary feet,
Over her shoulder her best shoes swing,
Softly, the mocking bird hears her sing.
"Chase that rabbit, chase that coon,"
Follow your honey 'round the moon."
The birds are singing of love and joy,
As down the trail the fiddler boy,
Leaps the brook and over the rocks,
He follows on, and never stops,
Until he comes to the pasture gate,
Where happiness and Janie wait;
As he gaily speeds along,
He hums the caller's careless song:
"Chase that 'possum, chase that squirrel,"
Follow that pretty girl 'round the world."
—By Lucille Lathrop Hoagland, Golden.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. Could be worse.
Bitter! Big Mass Meeting! A monster mass meeting was held last Saturday afternoon to protest against Loretta Minors singing lessons. It was held outside of her parlor window while she was having one. Among those present making sounds like cats, dogs and unknown animals was Benny Potts, Artie Alexander, Fuds Simkins, Sid Hunt, Leroy Shooster and Ed Wernick. Business and Financial. Sam Cross and Sid Hunt have went into a wacky partnership to wacky half of everything they get with each other, being supposed to be a fair partnership on account of neither of them ever having anything.
Pome by Skinny Martin.
It Slipped on a Grain of Sand.
O a clam once tripped and broke one shell,
O bingity bangity bammit!
O woe is me! it cried in grief,
O wot a terrible clammy!

Sisistety. A party was held in Mr. Sid Hunts back yard last Wednesday in honor of his fox terrier Teddys birthday. Among the guests was Mr. Benny Potts, Mr. Reddy Merfy, Mr. Lew Davis, Mr. Artie Alexander and Mr. Persey Weaver, and among the birthday presents was 2 bones with meat on them, 2 plane bones, a rubber ball with a slit hole in, and 4 dog blattita.
Things You Awt to Know. A few drops of oil on a skeaky hinge removes the skeek.

SUGAR GOES LOWER.

New York, June 17.—A further reduction by the Federal Sugar Refining Company of 10 points on fine granulated to the basis of 5.60 cents per pound today, established a low level for more than five years.

GREEK OFFENSIVE HALTED.

Constantinople, June 17.—The Greek offensive against the Turkish nationalists has been halted while financial decision of the British to back up the Greeks is pending. In any case, how-

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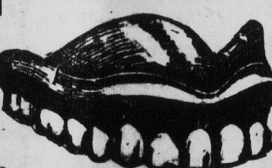
The Twin Screw Steamer "Sisiboo" will leave Indiantown at 3 p. m. Saturday, June 18th, commencing a service on the above river, stopping at Kennebecasis Island, Chapel Grove, etc. Full itinerary and time table to be published later. Particulars of this service to be obtained and arrangements for cruises, picnics, etc., to be made with the captain at Indiantown, or ring up Main 2616.



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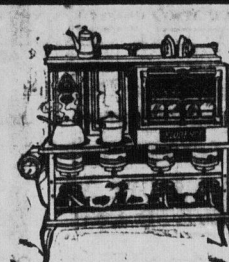
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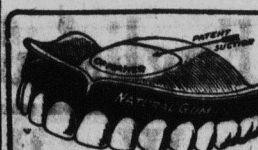
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