

## The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1920.

## THE RUSSO-POLISH EMBROGLIO.

Premier Lloyd George's statement in the House of Commons, in regard to the Russo-Polish situation, put his position and that of his Government very clearly before the British people. It is to be regretted that the French Government finds itself unable to take the same attitude on the matter. Insofar as Poland has made an unjustified attack on Russia, the British Premier allows that Russia, while still keeping within the lines laid down by international law, may make reprisals—but that in no event, under no circumstances, will it be justified in attacking Poland's national existence. "Thus far and no further" is a law of nature, of humanity and of God.

Time alone will tell whether Lloyd George's policy of trying to make a reasonable peace with the Russian Reds is capable of yielding the wished-for results. In any case, he is taking a correct strategic course in making every effort to exhaust peace possibilities before committing the country to war-like measures. Britain's main object in peace, and stabilization—which requires an independent Poland based on ethnographical lines. France's main object is the re-establishment of an orthodox Government in Russia, and recognition by it of Russia's external indebtedness. The French Government wants to collect the nation's bill against Russia. Thus while Britain is seeking to bring about a settled state of Europe, even at the expense of a recognition of the thugs and assassins who really rule Russia, France is assuming a much more independent attitude. But without British backing, France cannot hope to accomplish much.

## THE STRIKE MANIA.

Labor organizations throughout the world are suffering at present from a bad attack of strike mania. It matters not what the grievance is, whether industrial or political, whether concerning their own country or another, "down tools" is proposed as the appropriate remedy. This has become the method of expressing displeasure with things in general. We may expect to hear next that a strike has been declared against the weather. And, truly, that would be about as rational a proceeding as some of the strikes which have recently taken place or are in active preparation. A few weeks ago thousands of dockers and others in Dublin left their work for two hours to protest against the imprisonment of Larkin in the United States for criminal anarchy. Nothing further has been heard of the monster petition which was to be presented to President Wilson for the release of this troublemaker, and nothing further is likely to be heard. Evidently Washington has taken no notice, for later the Irish Trades Congress at Cork dropped the polite request in favor of an instant demand to liberate Larkin, and Labor organizations in America were called on to do the striking. It remains to be seen whether they will be any more amenable to the will of agitated Irish workers than President Wilson has been. But less it be thought that this sort of procedure is but Hibernian bluster, attention may be directed to proposals of as egregious a kind in Scotland and in England. A large gathering of Trade Unionists and others in Glasgow decided on a one-day strike, to take place on August 23rd, to mark their disapproval of the Rent Act. How that will bring rents down or prevent the law from being put into force will not be clear to the ordinary intelligence, and even the champions of the resolution themselves appeared to entertain some doubts as to the sanity of the project. The only thing certain about it is that those who take part will lose a day's wages, which will be deducted from their pay, after all the increased rents have to be paid. Landlords are not the only people who incur the wrath of working-class bodies. The Order of Foresters are up in arms against the doctors. At a meeting of their High Court in London, recently, it was suggested that a strike should be declared against the doctors because they are "exploiting the community." But if the Foresters decline to pay for medical attendance, they will simply fall victims to smallpox, or scarlet fever, or whatever other ailment may attack them. Do they propose to strike against disease? The disposition to resort to such nonsensical methods bespeaks a "mind diseased." The present attitude of Labor is an interesting psychological study. After the upheaval of the past few years it has not yet recovered its balance. It is afflicted with an exaggerated sense of its own importance, imagining that everybody must quake before its pronouncements and obey its orders. It has yet to learn

that the strike is not a panacea, but generally a boomerang.

## THE U. S. AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The leaders of both the great political parties in the United States have been in some doubt as to the attitude to be assumed towards the League of Nations in the Presidential contest. The Journal of Commerce thinks that on a general way it can be said that the Democratic party favors the League and the Republican party opposes it. But in the case of both parties there is a disposition to qualify their action by reservations. The Democratic leaders, while naturally favoring the League in the formation of which their President had so large a part, fear that it may not be very popular in the country, and are not unwilling to have their approval modified by some sort of reservations. Governor Cox, after his nomination, let it be understood that he supported the League, but with two reservations as follows:

1.—That the United States signs with the agreement and understanding that all the signatories are bound to keep for only one reason—to keep the peace of the world.

2.—That without any suggestions that the United States sought to shirk its obligations, the League participants should clearly understand that the war-making power is vested in Congress, and that the United States could not accept in harmony with that principle.

This was so near the position taken by the Republicans that one had difficulty in discovering wherein it differed from their attitude. The Republicans have been threatened with the belting of Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, an irreconcilable opponent of the League and a man of sufficient influence to be a menace to the Republican ticket. It is believed now that to placate Mr. Johnson, the Republican candidate, Mr. Harding, agreed to take a more pronounced stand against the League. The speech of Mr. Harding, in accepting the nomination, makes a reference to reservations so mild that it may be regarded as designed to be satisfactory to the California Senator. Mr. Cox, in his acceptance speech, gives a general endorsement to the League. In his speeches may be found indications that the candidate has decided to make the League a main issue. There will be less talk hereafter about reservations. It will be a square fight for and against the League.

## YESTERDAY.

It rained yesterday. People who had planned picnic parties, people who had arranged boating excursions on the river, people who thought to motor or cycle the countryside—once more rain, the uninvited guest, turned up to spoil it all.

That was yesterday. Today is Monday—blue Monday, dull Monday, as we are wont to call it.

But, after all, it is the beginning of another week. This week some of us may do great things. This week we may achieve something worth while . . . or help another on his way.

This week holds opportunity in its grasp, and Monday is the portal to it all.

And next Sunday it may not rain. There is much criticism as to the increased ordinary expenditure of the Government. The estimates of the British Government for running the civil departments are £205,000,000 as contrasted with an expenditure of £200,000,000 a few years before the war. Governments are finding higher costs and wages as difficult to meet as industries. In addition, the activities of governments are constantly extending.

Lloyd George says that Bolshevism backs the Sinn Féin. The main ambition of the Sinn Féiners is to wreck the British Empire, and the main ambition of the Bolshevists is to do the same, in order to get control of Europe. The two are well matched.

Hon. Mr. King says: "We want men who have a peace mind rather than the war mind." The speaker's own "peace mind" was unchanged or unopposed by the greatest war in all history.

Surrendered German warships arriving in the United States call attention to the fact that Uncle Sam continues to do his bit toward winning the war.

It's a poor recommendation of her blarney when a widow tells how fond her late husband was of them.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

By a Large Majority, (Vancouver Province.)

A New York paper offered a prize for the best short saying. Two-thirds of the replies agreed on the great question of the day and night—"Where can we get it?"

Doubtless! (Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.)

Connecticut is short of school-teachers that writers are being offered for an increased supply. Increased salaries would doubtless assist in securing a definite answer to the petitions.

The Next Great War, (New York Tribune.)

Another great war is plainly incubating—incubating for more plainly and visibly than did the one which burst on the world in 1914. The frontiers of unrepentant Germany and of military Bolshevik Russia are in conflict. Between the two countries is a community of selfish imperialistic interest, and thus a basis furnished for an aggressive alliance.

Are the parts of the world, including the United States, which would have peace and an orderly democratic civilization, to repeat the folly of 1914? Are they huddled once more to obliviousness to danger? Are they of those who have eyes yet see not?

Australia's First German Capture, (Melbourne Argus.)

Pilot Easton, who went from Melbourne to New Zealand to join H. M. S. Roebuck, which carried the Prince of Wales to the Antipodes, is a well-known figure in Australia. He figures in a war story which has just been released by the censorship. Some days after war broke out a big German steamer from Hamburg, which had no wireless, was signalled off the Melbourne Heads, and Easton went out to her and brought her in. He said nothing to the German captain about the war. When the ship was inside of Portsea, and Easton could see a naval launch packed with bluejackets approaching, he said to the captain, "Well, how do you like this?" The German, who knew the port well, asked, "Why, pilot, why?" and he fixed an anxious eye on the launch. "Because British and German are at war," said Easton. The German, furious at being "trapped," as he called it, was for turning round again and running for the entrance. But Easton pointed out a fort to him and assured him that the guns there were trained on the steamer. So the German succumbed, but his manner toward Easton was very threatening. Five minutes later the Australian bluejackets scrambled aboard. That steamer is now part of Australia's merchant fleet.

## A BIT OF VERSE

HAMLET'S OPINION OF OUR LOCAL WEATHER.

(With No Apologies to Shakespeare.)  
Oh, how this too, too solid flesh doth melt,  
Thaw, and resolves itself into a dew,  
While my atheistic garb is water-cooled;  
How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable  
Seem to me all the juices of this world—  
Fie on't, ah fie, that it should come to this—  
So child a winter, so cutting to the bone  
That I might not between the winds of Heaven  
Visit my face too lightly. But yet  
A little while, those self-same furs are stored  
With which I wrapped me shivering round,  
Like Santa Clause all paunch, and I, even I,  
Sweater unceasingly. Electric fans  
Are no more use than snow in H-alifax.  
O most deadly clime to post with so great  
Celerity from zero weather up  
To eighty-eight degrees or more  
above zero!

It will not, for it cannot, do me good  
But off my clothes and let me take a plunge!  
—Arthur Penny.

## THE LAUGH LINE

Famous Words of Famous Women.  
"I want you to do a few little jobs around the house this evening."

Assistance.  
"Peddler—I'm trying to sell some almanacs to make a living. Won't you help me out?"

"Busy Man—I certainly will, if you don't go on your own account."—Boston Transcript.

Couldn't Help Being Musical.  
Brown—"How did you get your musical temperament?"

Johnson—"I was born in 'A flat.'—Stray Stories.

Reason to Rejoice.  
Mrs. Nestor—"I hear the last of your daughter is to be married. Who is the happy man?"

Mrs. Langsuffer—"Her father."

Why Not?  
"Mother," said little Ray, who has a boy's aversion to soap and water, "if you can hire a woman to do your washing for you why can't I hire a little boy to take my baths for me?"—Boston Transcript.

Sacrifice to Pleasure.  
"What's the time, Herbert?"

"Now should I know? Ye don't expect me to 'ave a 'oliday and a watch at the same time, do ye?"—London Mail.

Looked Like It.  
Says Punch: "Owing to heavy storm, 1,000 London telephones were thrown out of order. Very few subscribers noticed the difference." They must be copying our system over here.

Surprisingly Scarcity of Bugs.  
"I got four kinds of vegetables and about 40 kinds of bugs."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Nautically Expressed.  
"What in the world did Helen marry that old derelict for?"

"For the salvage. I guess."—Boston Transcript.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Sports. Last Wednesday Reddy Mersey his Persey Weaver on the end of the nose with a rubber band, and Persey told Reddy another on him and she gave him a licking, and the next time Reddy Mersey saw Persey he gave him several mixed kicks and punches to show him that 2 rongs don't make a rite.

Intriking Fads About Intriking People. Low Davis says he does care whether he goes to heaven or not, because he don't expect to die for such a long while, by that time it will probably be too crowded anyway.

POEME BY SKINNY MARTIN.

3 Cheers for Variety.

Why does the weather change so much?

For these 4 principal reasons:—

Spring Summer Autumn and Winter,

O hurray for the different seasons!

Society. Miss Mary Watkins has learned how to tell people fortunes with cards, telling your future better than what she tells your past on account of it being harder to conderdict her.

Good fox terrier watch dog rented out for the mite, 20 cents. Sleeps down in the hall and barks at the slightest excuse. See Sid Hunt.

Lost and Found. Neither.

Consistent

"That movie star runs true to form, doesn't she?"

"Yes. She used to ride bare-backed on her father's ranch out west and now she romps bare-backed through her vampire scenes."—Film Fun.

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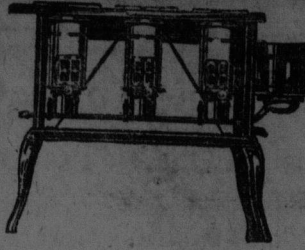
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## OBITUARY.

Mrs. Ellen Grady.

The death occurred yesterday morning of Ellen, widow of John Grady, after a lengthy illness. Deceased leaves to mourn one daughter, Mrs. C. M. Kelly; three sisters, Mrs. J. O'Brien and Mrs. James Cullen, of St. John, and Miss Mary McCarthy, of Boston; also two brothers, Jeremiah McCarthy, of this city, and James McCarthy, of Calmar. The funeral will take place this Monday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock from the residence of

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