

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1920.

HIGH PRICES AND PROFITS.

A New York merchant advertised a shipment of silk shirts made in Japan at the price of \$6.50 each. To convey the impression that at this price the shirts are a bargain, the advertisement states that "had they arrived earlier they would be marked at \$10."

Here seems to be a nice example of a kind of profiteering of which the buying public has been and is the victim. It is hardly to be supposed that the \$6.50 price does not represent a profit for the merchant. He probably is doing very well at that price. But, had the shirts arrived earlier in the summer season when men were anxious to have light shirts he would have added \$3.50 to the \$6.50 retail price for extra profit for himself.

It may be argued, says the Ottawa Journal, that men who indulge in silk shirts or who are willing to pay \$10 for any kind of a shirt are not deserving of sympathy if they are victims of profiteering. The contention is hardly fair, because that man is most cases is going no further in the way of extravagance than buying the quality of goods he was accustomed to in normal times and that in those times was not an extravagance. Then, he found it just as economical, and more to his taste, to pay four or five dollars for a good cashmere or flannel shirt than a lesser price for one of poorer and less durable material; he was not indulging in luxury in doing that. Today he has to pay ten dollars and more for such a shirt. And the advertisement referred to would seem to indicate that in part the reason is that some dealers want to make as much profit on the article as the entire retail price amounted to in the days of normal profits.

EVERYWHERE THE SAME.

On the principle that misery loves company, the Canadian public, who are threatened with a large increase in railway rates—the matter being now under consideration of the Board of Railway Commissioners at Ottawa—may find some comfort in the fact that increased rates are being demanded in all quarters, and in most cases are allowed by the governing authorities. Tramway fares are everywhere increasing. In the larger operations of the steam railways the situation is the same. This is true not only on this continent, but in the old world as well. The travelling public in Great Britain have been chafing under the charges of the transportation lines, but there is no help for the complainants. On the approach of the holiday season an intimation that the passenger rates, already quite high, were to be increased, caused much alarm among those who were planning vacation travel. As the Government still control the railways, earnest protests against the threatened increase were made in the House of Commons. The Government, however, held out no hope of relief. Mr. Bonar Law said the British railways were working at an estimated deficit of \$24,000,000 a year. The pay bill of the railway companies had risen from \$247,000,000 to \$251,000,000, or over three times the pre-war figure, while steel rails and pig-iron were four times. The cost of living and every other index could apply had risen out of all proportion to the proposed increase in rates.

THE LUCERNE CONFERENCE.

The meeting of the premiers of England and Italy at Lucerne appears to be that of a sub-committee of the allied council, as France is not represented, a fact that is causing some unrest in France. Probably Italy and England wish to consider the Russian Poland problem by themselves, as they are not as favorable to direct action as is France, but it is conceivable that good may come of the consultation between Lloyd George and Giolitti. One result, it is reported, is that advice will be given to Poland not to proceed too far in its campaign against Russia.

As the Poles have just declared that it is not the Polish intent to push beyond their own borders such counsel may seem hardly necessary, and yet if the Poles can continue to keep the Russians on the run it may not be easy to stop the advance at the Polish border, although such would be the point of wisdom. An invasion of Russia would profit Poland nothing. It cannot expect to take and hold Russian territory, and such an attempt would certainly mean a long war and a Polish defeat at the end.

The Russians are now being beaten and soundly, but a prime cause is the fact that the Russian advance was too far extended and its transportation service entirely failed. It subsided on

the territory over which it travelled and swept that clean. Now retreating over the same territory it is finding subsistence very difficult. The Poles should not be led into a similar error and will be wise to make peace while the making is good.

McSWEENEY'S CASE.

Yesterday a cablegram was sent to London to Premier Lloyd George by some doubtless well-meaning, but sadly misguided, people, in which they said they deplored the treatment meted out to Lord Mayor McSweeney. Now, what sort of treatment is it that they are deploring? McSweeney is provided with every thing he can properly require, considering that he is undergoing imprisonment for breaking the laws of his country. He is provided with clothing, longings and food, the latter in plenty. But he refuses to eat. Do these gentlemen who deplore his treatment want him forcibly fed? From all accounts that operation is not the most pleasant. What other treatment would they want him put under?

All this sickly, maudlin sentiment for men who break the laws disgusts reasonable minded people. It is more than likely that the cablegram would be consigned to the waste paper basket, but in any case public opinion has no sympathy for men who adopt such childish tactics as McSweeney is doing. People are getting tired of these hunger strikes as a means of escaping the consequences of wrongdoing, and it will without doubt be the greatest mistake the Government ever made if it interferes with the course of justice and frees McSweeney. If he wants to die, let him. He need not, but if he does, it will be such an object lesson to others who may feel inclined to adopt his tactics, that they will think twice, or oftener, before they do so.

Now, on just what principle should a man who refuses to eat in order that he may escape the consequences of wrongdoing be liberated?

When it comes to sheer, unadulterated profiteering, the C. P. R. News Co. and the Canada Railway News apparently have all competitors—to use a slang phrase—"skinned a mile." As artists in profiteering they are in a class by themselves. The St. John Times-Star sells on the street at one cent, the price to newsboys and news agents is half a cent. The Globe, Telegram and Standard sell at two cents, and the price of each of these newspapers to the boys and agencies is one cent. Yet at points a little distant from St. John, if anyone wants to buy either of these papers on a train or at a news stall, the price these enterprising news agents charge per copy is five cents. Such an outrageous charge cannot be justified under any conditions. Two cents for The Times, and three cents for each of the other papers is profit enough to make on any sale. But we suppose as long as people will pay just whatever they are asked to pay, just so long will these prices be demanded. In the same way for some of the five-cent Boston and Montreal papers a customer is asked fifteen cents. There seems to be no limit to the greed of some vendors.

Sugar is coming down a little, which, in the opinion of the Montreal Gazette, is more important than a change of Government. Sugar is not only a physical but a moral agent. The heat and satisfaction which it diffuses make for order and good conduct in the community. Other things being equal, the use of sugar in the community lessens the need for the corner policeman. Sugarless tea produces dyspepsia, which is the father of all evils. It sours the nature. It evolves that hideous character, "Scrooge." It withers up the human being of the spirit. One may have noticed that since sugar became so dear, the general unrest became acute.

Ask the retail merchant and he will tell you that it is the women who keep up the prices. A man wants value for his money; a woman wants effect. In the matter of clothes the woman will hanker; in the case of confections, the higher the price the greater the thrill in the sense of possession. The feminine love of color is ineradicable. "Beauty unadorned is adorned the most," says Tom Moore; but, though the total effect of the confection may suggest meanness, the price is fabulous. Those who have had to count their money in normal times are the most reckless spenders of new found money. Prudent in very other regard, editorial preciseness finds the average woman thrilling with desire.

About the freshest thing to be found on a farm in summer is the city boards.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Speed Field a Menace.
(Ottawa Journal.)
The National Safety Council of the United States, which is holding its annual session at Atlantic City, has presented some startling figures as to the increasing loss of human life from the automobile. The official figures show that one person was killed in the United States by automobile every thirty-five minutes for the past four months. There were three times as many people killed by automobile as in all the factories, mines, railroads and other industries in the States. The speed fiend is getting to be a real menace who will have to be dealt with severely.

Brains Are the Things.

(Ottawa Journal.)
The reversal of the situation around Warsaw must be credited evidently to the 600 French officers now in command of the Polish troops. The Polish soldiers are so sure that the German army may be born equal the development of human brain power in the individual brings about a change.

Tolstoi Was No God.

(Wilmington Telegram.)
I must have excused mountains of literature about Tolstoi, but never did I get such a vision of him as in Gorky's "Reminiscences," which I believe Mr. Kotikovsky and Mr. Wood have made a previous translation writes "Wayfarer" in the London Nation. They made an astonishing physical portrait; and yet that is as nothing compared with the exhibition of Tolstoi's soul. I suppose some people will find it horrible to discover that Tolstoi was a man not a god, and possessed of good stock of some primitive human (and Russian) characteristics. The book does not horrify me; it held me breathless, much as if I had been given a new through some problem of the gambooling of a Colossus. Yet there is nothing new to students of Tolstoi. Sentimental Gorky talks of Tolstoi's extreme sensibility, showing him at one moment weeping at his remembrance of how a drunken woman in Moscow looked, and at the next roaring with laughter at a broad story he approved it apparently, because it fed his hatred of women, mercilessly probing at other people's souls (including poor Tolstoi's whom he lived) and hiding away his own only to give it away, a little later. Gorky confesses himself swept off his feet, and possessed now by love, and now by fear and hatred, of the tremendous and implacable old hero.

A BIT OF VERSE

SEA-CHANGE.

The sun is hiding, all the leaves are
Between the silent branches
The sea is wide and motionless.
Without a will,
A padded dreamy desert, stretching
Far.

To meet the thick-winged cloud-banks,
Deep, impenetrable covering
A sleeping star.

The slow cars dip; they cut the sulky
wastes
Boats are but greedy flies
Drinking their fill of murky liquid,
Gloating as they taste.

Slim spears of brightness pierce the
gray rail thought;
Rushes of live, victorious air
Scatter the sullen moody clouds.
Lay bare the blue.

The cheeks of lazy sails are puffed to
burst
Into the limpid sea-rooms.
They pull their lagging craft
For speed a-thrilling.

The desolated surface heaves deep
breaths;
new understanding
Slings in the call of reckless winds,
Speaks with the fiery sunbeam's
loud, demanding.

A whirling 'phone swings through the
empty air;
Spurning the sea's transparent floor,
Insolent against the quiet blue,
Headless and free.

The waves awake from shore to far
horizon line,
Juggling the little eager ships
That touch the sea, and touch the sky.
In ecstasy

—Mark Ward Lockwood, in The New York Times

THE LAUGH LINE

Just So.
Pa—What's a dead letter?
Son—A letter at its post, my son.—Boston Transcript.

A Poser.
Father—Is the zebra a black animal with white stripes, or a white animal with black stripes?—London Mail.

Willing To Split.
We understand that one of the New Poor who recently found a burglar in his house searching for money immediately offered the intruder 10 per cent. if he proved successful.—Punch (London).

Why He Wasn't Stolen Too.
Atlanta, Ga.—Patrolman J. O. D.—reported to police thieves had stolen the bicycle furnished him by the city. Davis was not riding the vehicle at the time, he declared.—Florida Metropolis.

Some Consolation.
"It seems to me," said the old-fashioned man, "that \$15 is a lot of money to pay for a ready-made suit of clothes."
"Perhaps it is," said the purchaser, but the salesman made the transaction as painless for me as possible."
"How so?" "He told me the same suit would probably cost \$100 next year."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Told No Lie.
Jones sent \$2 to a concern that advertised to send for the sum five pairs of hose by mail. When they arrived, he looked them over, and then wrote the sender: "Hose received. The patterns are vile. I wouldn't be seen on the street with them on."

Back came the answer: "What are you kicking about? Didn't we advertise that you wouldn't wear them out?"—Boston Transcript.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

DATES.
Dates are what keeps callenders from being useless. If it wasn't for the dates there wouldn't be anything left on a callender but a picture of a girl without any information. All callenders for the same year are exactly alike, so if you read one you know what is in them all.

Dates have their good points and their bad points. Thus dates make history one of the hardest things to study but on the other hand people that make a lot of engagements would get all mixed up if there weren't any dates.

Your 2 most important dates is the date you were born on and the date you die on, and yet somebody has to tell you what day you were born on and you don't know whether to believe it or not, and you never find out what date you die on.

Many dates get more important as they get older. Thus when somebody says 1492 the first thing you think of is Columbus discovering America, but in 1492 everybody was properly thinking of something entirely different.

Some people never know what date it is, while others are always asking you just out of curiosity. This proves it takes all sorts of people to make a world.

It is always a good thing to start a letter with the date for 3 reasons, first, because whoever gets the letter would properly miss it if it wasn't there, and 2nd because then you have at least one line done.



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If you are not feeling well, see what OLIVEINE EMULSION can do for you—take no substitutes.

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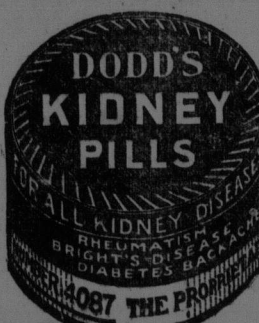
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The sizes usually in stock vary from 1 1/2 dia. to 4 in. dia. and in a great variety of lengths. Please inquire for prices.

L. Matheson & Co., Ltd.
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Casseroles

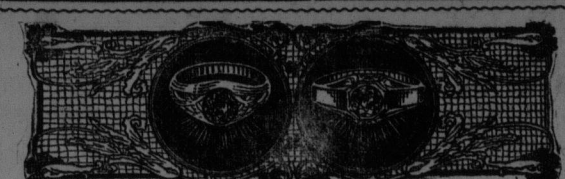


are a wonderful cooking convenience—they make the food taste better and do away with considerable extra effort—as the food can be baked and served on the table in the same dish.

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Let us show you this attractive ware.

Phone M 2540 McAVITY'S 11-17 King St.



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Best Value in Shingles

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\$6.50 per m.
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Are really part of the tie. The idea is to make the scarf better looking—to get a more pleasing effect. That's why the well-dressed man wears a scarf pin. He selects his tie for the day, then puts in the prop- er pin—and has that clean cut appearance that marks the man of good taste and good character.

We have a good variety of scarf pins in the latest styles and the desired good quality.

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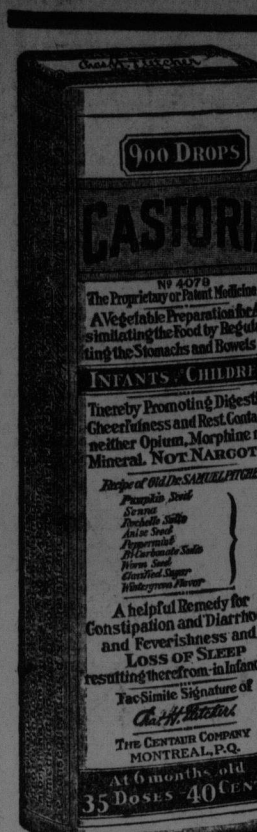
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WEDDINGS.

Lawrence-Hayes
Yesterday afternoon at the Main street Baptist church parsonage a pretty wedding was performed by Rev. Dr. D. Hutchinson, when Harry Armitage Hayes, of St. John, was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle Lawrence, of Fredericton. The happy couple were unattended, and after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Hayes started out on a brief honeymoon trip, and on their return will reside in St. John.

Rivers-Golding.
In the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, yesterday morning, Rev. A. P. Allan united in marriage Mrs. Margaret M. Golding and Robert G. Rivers, both of this city. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Jennie Herbert, and the groom was supported by his cousin, E. J. Quinlan, of Halifax. After a wedding trip through the province, Mr. and Mrs. Rivers will reside at 221 King street east.

Ferguson-Wilson.
A quiet wedding was solemnized on Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Wilson, Lorneville, when their daughter, Mary E., was united in marriage to R. Bruce Ferguson, of Lorneville, in the presence of a few friends and relatives. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Wm. Bevis. A dainty supper was served, and Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson left on a wedding trip to Boston and other American cities. On their return they will reside at Lorneville.

Rice-Glen.
Moncton, Aug. 26.—The home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Fraser was the scene of a pretty wedding last evening when Mrs. Fraser's sister, Miss Stella Glen, of Salmon River, was united with Percy Rice, of Harcourt, Kent County, Rev. Hammond Johnson performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Rice will reside in Harcourt.

Park-Aldworth
Moncton, Aug. 26.—The marriage of Andrew Park, formerly of Bellfleur, Tre-

son, and Miss Aldworth, of Bellfleur, was solemnized last evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aldworth, when the bride was attended by her sister, Miss Alice Aldworth, and the groom was supported by his brother, Mr. Andrew Park. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Wm. Bevis. A dainty supper was served, and Mr. and Mrs. Park left on a wedding trip to Boston and other American cities. On their return they will reside at Bellfleur.

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