

## The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 52 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B. Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.  
 THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY:  
 Henry de Clergue ..... 1 West 4th St., New York  
 Louis Klobahn ..... 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.  
 Freeman & Co. ....

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1920.

### THE NEW TAXES.

That there would be complaints regarding the incidence of the new taxes was of course to be expected, and that they would not be long in making their appearance was equally probable. In another column of this page will be found a letter which narrates a condition of affairs that certainly gives just cause for complaint.

It undoubtedly is an anomaly that it should be possible to go into a store and purchase a ready-made garment at \$45 in value and pay no tax on it, while if one purchases a piece of material, valued at a third of the amount, with the view of making the garment oneself, the tax of ten per cent. is added to the purchase money. If this is what is intended, it is most certainly putting a tax on thrift and personal industry. To be so circumvented as to be compelled to make one's own garments can scarcely be said to be a luxury, but if this is to be the construction put upon the wording of the new regulations it assuredly is going to work considerable hardship to people who are least able to bear it.

There are—so we are informed by our lady editor—certain fabrics, made partly of silk and partly of cotton, which are very extensively used in the making of ladies' summer attire. Surely it cannot be contended that these half-silk-half materials should be put in the same class as expensive silk costing \$4 or \$5 a yard, yet we understand they are being classed as "rich fabrics." There is a vast difference between a dress made of material costing \$2 a yard and one costing more than twice as much money. The latter might not unreasonably be called a luxurious extravagance, but the former certainly is not one.

Take the case of women of small means, capable needlewomen who have been in the habit of making their own clothes. Is it fair or reasonable to tax them because their means are not sufficiently large to permit them to buy expensive ready-made clothes, when, and if they want to be decently dressed, they must make their clothes themselves? It does not seem so. Yet under what we understand is the present reading of the new regulations, taxed they must be, unless they are content to go about in nothing better than cotton goods. A minimum value below which no tax is to be payable has been put upon made-up goods, and the same principle should be followed in the case of materials. Can any fair comparison be drawn between the case of the wealthy woman who buys ribbon at \$1 a yard to adorn her costume, and the artisan's wife who buys half a yard of a very much cheaper quality, to tie up her little girl's hair for the school closing? Yet they are both taxed at the same rate.

A tax on luxuries is a good thing and will no doubt tend to check a great deal of the extravagance that has been so much in evidence during the last year or two, but there needs to be some better line of demarcation between luxuries and necessities. And moreover there should be some change in the principle that permits one woman, who can afford to pay for luxuries, to go by a \$45 dress tax free, while her less well-to-do sister, who can herself make the same thing for \$15, should be penalized with the tax.

### THE IRISH SITUATION.

Those who have followed the course of events for the past few months must have wondered where the strength which has been developed by the reactionary party in Ireland comes from, and how it is kept up. It is making no mistatement to assert that it largely, if not almost wholly, comes from the course taken by a section of the people of the United States. It is the openly expressed sympathy and encouragement given by the German and Irish element in the American population, and the enormous sums that have been raised to carry on the revolutionary propaganda in Ireland, that has kept, and is keeping, the movement going. When we come to read accounts in the papers of resolutions proposed in the American Congress asking that the British Ambassador be not recognized by the President as the representative of Ireland, but that that country be treated as an independent nation; when we find the self-styled "President of the Republic of Ireland" received by prominent Americans as such; when we find American legislators sending resolutions to the British Government as to the course of action that should be adopted with regard to Irish affairs, it is little wonder that the spirit of lawlessness which is now so rampant in that country should flourish.

There can be no doubt whatever that the better class of American citizens have no sympathy with the attitude of the German-irish section of the community, but the trouble is that the latter are pursuing a very active policy, while the other class maintains its usual passivity. The result is that the impression given is that the former represents American public opinion on the matter. This impression is strengthened on reading the nearest newspapers, which, by those

who do not know any better, are presumed to be fairly influential. It is therefore scarcely to be wondered at that the English people should resent the attitude of America, and feel that the latter is not acting in a very neighborly way, to say the least.

The rapid recovery made by Great Britain from the effect of the war is another disquieting element in American sentiment. It was fully expected that in American business and financial circles that Britain would be "down and out" for some years as a dominant factor in world trade and finance, and that America would control the situation. This dream has been shattered, and although the financial interests of the Republic are doing all they can to depress the value of the sovereign, Britain goes on her way, serenely undisturbed, and London is once again becoming the central money market of the world.

America some years ago interfered in Cuba, and perhaps the irresponsible and hot-headed section of the nation would not be averse to seeing her interfere again in regard to Ireland. But even if a portion of the nation would "just as soon fight the British as the Germans," they are hardly likely to do it. There is a good deal of platitudinous conversation being heard as to the necessity for a closer understanding between the two great English-speaking nations, but the attitude which is being taken up by so large a section of the American people on the subject of Ireland is scarcely calculated to bring this better understanding about. If America would mind her own business a little more, other nations would think better of her.

### GERMANY'S LIABILITY.

The amount of indemnity that Germany is to be called upon to pay, as compensation for her wanton infringement and abuse of her neighbors' rights and property, has been fixed at thirty billion dollars. The great thing to be done in connection with this payment is to see that it is properly and regularly paid. That Germany will use every means in her power to avoid satisfying this debt may be depended upon; Hindenburg has openly stated that the German people cannot possibly fulfill the enormous obligations laid upon them by their late enemies, and further, that they would not if they could. So that the world is duty bound beforehand what to expect. As soon as ever Germany begins to pull herself together a little, and to recover her former prosperity, then the old argument will begin to make itself apparent, and trouble may be looked for once more.

The war was costing Germany upwards of five billion dollars annually, with rising costs, and this sum was a very severe strain upon the resources of the nation. It was, of course, a period of non-production for trading purposes. The only exchanges which Germany was enabled to make during the war period was that of the metal which her guns hurled over No Man's Land and for which she received two shells in reply. This ability to find money with which to carry on war should be some indication of the possibility of the enemy discovering means wherewith to finance the after-effects of war—the indemnity stage. Payment will be spread over a number of years, and at first may be difficult, but as the years pass the matter of raising a billion dollars annually will become more and more inconsequential, but at the same time, as the difficulty in raising the money becomes less, the inclination to keep up the indemnity payments will become less also, unless pressure is exerted to see that they are kept up.

The amount fixed upon is none too great, but its enormity, taken in conjunction with the fact of German loss of trade, of commercial and political prestige, of shipping, of rich colonies and of world respect, will hardly be lost to view. The punishment no more than fits the crime, as it should do. Considered apart from the justice which is involved, it was necessary that war should be made as unpopular as possible, and this could best be done by imposing upon Germany the full extent of punishment which she could bear. Germany has been representative of the militaristic spirit in these days, and if that spirit is to be crushed and destroyed, it is essential that the nation which fed and fostered it should be made to appear before the world as a painful example of what militarism can do for those who worship before its shrine. But, as we said before, the utmost firmness will be required to keep the Germans up to their engagements.

### THE NEWSPRINT SITUATION.

American publishers have carried their grievance regarding the scarcity and high prices of newsprint paper to the halls of Congress. They allege that a Canadian combine fixes the output and cost of the raw material necessary to the newspapers in their business. That is not improbable; but the newspaper manufacturers are the only sinners in this respect on this continent of magnificent resources. The Congress has tried its penitence hand

on the task of dissolving or bringing to account various American trusts and it is at least doubtful whether any material benefit has accrued to the public. Attacking a foreign trust or combination probably would prove a more difficult problem still. One Congressman had an idea on the subject—the imposition of excise duties on paper imports. That might prove efficacious in one respect. It certainly either would reduce imports of paper or result in newspaper proprietors paying the excise duties and charging readers higher prices for their morning and evening papers. Such a course would not bring confusion to the attitude of America, and feel that the latter is not acting in a very neighborly way, to say the least.

The authority who promulgated the foregoing idea said he would prefer to see the American publishers assailed the problem and solve it in their own way—by reducing the size of their editions. The manufacture of newsprint has become a great Canadian industry and its growth to existing proportions has been attained in a comparatively few years. Its rapid development is due to two facts, an abundance in this country of raw material and water powers. The only apparent benefit according to the people, the original owners of these resources, is whatever advantage may follow manufacture of paper in this country. That is something governments wisely have provided for and with which they will not tolerate foreign interference. Canadians have learned some valuable lessons regarding the protection and conservation of the natural resources of their country in order that their own people should secure the chief benefit from their development. They learned most of the lessons from their American neighbors.

The Toronto Globe gives a long list of reasons why it is desirable that Canada should have her own special representative at Washington, and admits that with the decision to appoint such a representative few Canadians will disagree. Then why in the name of common sense is the party the Globe supports raising such a racket about the appointment.

**IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.**  
**THE "LUXURY" TAX.**  
 To the Editor of The Standard:  
 Sir—I notice you say in your paper, with regard to the new taxes, that "they are placed upon the things of those best able to bear them." Perhaps when you have read this note through, you may change your mind. I am a working girl, earning \$12 a week, which you perhaps realize does not leave me a very great deal for clothing and other expenses after I have paid my board. Fortunately I am pretty handy with my needle, and have been able to make most of my own clothes so far. I need a new waist, and this morning I went to one of the stores and bought a yard of pongee silk for the purpose, also a little ribbon to trim it with, paying \$4.50 altogether. To my surprise I was informed that I had also to pay 45 cents tax on my purchase.

Now, sir, had I been my employer's wife I could have gone to that store and bought a ready-made silk waist up to \$12 in value, and paid no tax, but because I am only a stenographer and make my own waists, I was compelled to pay the tax on the bare material. If you call this sort of thing putting the burden where it can best be borne, I don't.

Yours, etc.,  
 St. John, May 20th.  
**"STENOGR."**

**AN ERRONEOUS CHARGE.**  
 Ennisville, May 20, 1920.  
 To the Editor of The Standard:  
 Sir—Kindly allow the writer sufficient space in your valuable paper to correct what has only been a misapprehension on the part of a number of friends of the writer some anxiety.

In the evening papers, tonight, it is stated that a case of six was found in my residence after a diligent search. The quantity located was exactly five ounces. This amount was for medicine and nothing else. There was absolutely no charge of traffic in liquor. The contention of the inspector was that on account of our residence containing a store the finding of this five ounces constituted a violation of the law.

The writer does not in any way feel any remorse over this so-called raid, but simply wished in some public manner to explain the circumstances. Thanking you, sir, I remain,  
 Yours truly,  
 GEORGE M. THORNE.

### WHAT OTHERS SAY

**Class Distinctions.**  
 (British Columbia Federationist.)  
 General McLean has done a service that is incalculable. He has demonstrated that even among those who made the world safe for democracy, class distinctions exist, and that his conception at least of the question is to see that those who have been used to working are encouraged by low pensions to continue in the path of virtue, for in ruling classes eyes it is a virtue for the workers to work, and for the idlers to idle, and to that extent at least he has demonstrated the class nature of society and the government which represents those who own the country for which the privates fought.

**National Progressive Movement.**  
 (Turner's Weekly, Saskatoon.)  
 It is reported that in towns and villages strong support, both financial and other, has been forthcoming from the non-farming population. In the larger cities, however, no effort has yet been made to collect funds. That the support in the cities is just as strong as it is elsewhere was proved by the tremendous crowds which flocked to hear Mr. O'Leary in the series of meetings which he addressed last fall. The question of organizing the cities has

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday afternoon I was on my skates and Mary Watkins was sitting on her front steps and I was just going to skate past 3 or 4 times and then stop and talk to her on account of not wanting to look as if I was anxious, and Mary Watkins called out, "Benny, will you do me a favor? Which I said I would and she said, "Reddy Merly skated past a little while ago and deliberately called me a bleached blond. I was never so insulted in my life, and I want you to punish him, there he is down at the corner now."

G wizz, goosh, how can I punish him, he was probably only fooling, he probably just said that, I said.

O I see, you're afraid of him. O very well, if you're afraid of him never mind, leave him insult all the ladies he wants to, if you're afraid of him, said Mary Watkins, and I said, Whose afraid of him, I'll show you. And I skated down to where Reddy Merly was practicing the spread eagle by himself, saying, "Hay Reddy, what did you want to go and call Mary Watkins a bleached blond for, you got to apologize to her, that's all."

O is that so, what will you do if I don't? said Reddy Merly, and I said, I'll give you 2 cents if you do. Meeting I wouldn't do anything if he didn't and Reddy said he would for 3, and I said all right and skated back to Mary Watkins again, saying, You wait to of her to see him, if he don't come up and apologize to you pretty soon I'll knock his block off.

O Benny, don't beat him too much, said Mary Watkins. And just then Reddy skated up, saying, I apologize for calling you a bleached blond whether you are or not, waites then 3 cents for apologizing, Benny?

O, do I owe you 3 cents, that's rite, I remember, I said. And I gave him the 3 cents, and he skated away, and Mary Watkins said, Benny Potts, I displace you, never speak to me again. And she went in the house proud and I skated away sorry I had skated there in the first place and wishing I had my 3 cents back.

frequently been discussed, and it is not nearly so simple a matter as might be supposed. The enthusiasm of the farmers is partly the result of years of hard effort, the effect of which was greatly speeded up by the war. There was little difficulty in getting them to support a platform which they had themselves originated, and the principles included in which had been discussed by them time and time again.

**THE LAUGH LINE**  
 The more you puff a cigar the smaller it becomes. And that's the case with some men.  
 The high cost of living ought to teach us all a lot of things we can do without.  
 The rattle of pans and dishes in the kitchen sounds better to a hungry man than classical music.  
 The Culpit.  
 Mother—Now, Bobby, was it you who ate all the white meat off this chicken?  
 Bobby—Well, mother, to make a clean breast of it, I did.—Pearson's Weekly.

**DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS**  
 FOR ALL KIDNEY DISEASE  
 BRONCHITIS, GRAVEL, RHEUMATISM, DIABETES, CALCULI, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, ETC.  
 23 THE PROGRESSIVE  
 568-1  
 568-1

**Engraved Wedding Announcements**  
 At Home and Visiting Cards.  
**FLEWELLING PRESS,**  
 Market Square, St. John.

**Another Winter's Coming**  
 Look ahead, and prepare now to KEEP OUT THE WEATHER AND KEEP DOWN COAL BILLS, by using  
**RUBBEROID ASPHALT SATURATED FELT**  
 between your walls and under your floors. It keeps out cold better than anything else of the kind.  
 For Prices and all information, Phone M 3000.  
**MURRAY & GREGORY, Ltd.**

**No Summer Vacation**  
 this year, as some of our students cannot afford to lose the time.  
 Our classes have been considerably crowded, but changes now occurring give a chance for new students who may enter at any time.  
 Send for Rate Card.  
**Pictorial Review Patterns are sold in St. John by F. W. Daniel & Co., Ltd.**

**Seed Oats**  
 2 Cws. Oats For Seed  
**FEEDING OATS**  
 Market Very Strong—Buy Now  
**C. H. PETERS SONS, LTD., St. John, N. B.**

## Gifts for June Brides



Here are a few suggestions out of the many beautiful yet practical gifts you can select from:

**SILVERWARE**  
 Entree Dishes, Butter Dishes, Sauce Boats, Sandwich Trays, Marmalade Dishes, Compartment Dishes, Casserolles.

1847 ROGER BROS. Knives, Forks and Spoons.  
 COMMUNITY PLATE Spoons, Knives, Forks and other pieces.  
 PYREX Transparent Oven Ware "WEAR-EVER" Aluminum Ware.

'Phone M 2640 **McAVITY'S** 11-17 King St.

## And when Ye Plight the Troth—

be mindful that the Ring—which marks the step so vital in the life of womanhood—of finest gold, with gem of purity beyond reproach.

**ENGAGEMENT RINGS**  
 in Solitaire and Cluster Diamond effects, also set with Pearls, Rubies, Emeralds and other precious stones, are special features of our up-to-date display.

We're always glad to show them to you. Call at your convenience.

**FERGUSON & PAGE**

## Cedar Shingles

Extras, \$9.00 per m. Clear Walls, \$6.50 per m.  
 Clears, \$8.50 per m. Ex. No. 1, \$5.00 per m.  
 2nd Clear, \$7.25 per m. Spruce Shingles, \$6.00

**HALEY BROS., LTD. - St. John, N. B.**

## English Balata Belting

WILL BE PROMPTLY SHIPPED  
**WE HAVE SOME REMNANTS**  
 EXTRA DISCOUNT  
**D. K. McLAREN** LIMITED  
 MAIN 1121 90 GERMAIN STREET. ST. JOHN, N. B. BOX 70.

## Elastica House Paints

For Interior or Exterior Use  
**Painters' Sundries, High Class Varnishes**

**M. E. AGAR** 51-53 Union St.  
 'Phone Main 818 St. John, N. B.

## WORK-ORGANIZERS

Handle Your Work Systematically.  
 Chase away littered desk problems, keep the desk cleared for action, organize the day's work; keep all papers flat, neat, in order and out of the way until wanted.

WORK-ORGANIZERS are for use on the desk or in the drawer, lie flat, look neat, help you to do more work easier.

Get them at  
**Barnes & Co., Limited**  
 PRINTERS AND OFFICE OUTFITTERS

The Best Quality at a Reasonable Price.

## Bracelet Watches

A fine dependable bracelet watch is not only a great convenience to a woman, but an asset to her appearance as well. We carry a large stock of bracelet watches. These watches are exquisitely designed, standard timepieces, the output of the leading watch manufacturers—a guarantee of perfect satisfaction.

A bracelet watch from Sharpe's is the finest gift a girl graduate can receive.  
 \$25.00 to \$100.00

**L. L. SHARPE & SON**  
 Jewelers and Opticians  
 2 STORES—21 KING STREET 189 UNION STREET

**The Christie Wood-working Co., Ltd.**  
 186 Erin Street

Food scientists responsible for someness of your other one ingred important, there that you know qualities.

## MAGIC

and is the only in Canada selling tation is built on

The only well powder made in alum and that stated on the label

**FREE KINDERGARTEN**  
 The annual meeting was held yesterday afternoon in the Bible Rooms, Germain street. Reports were read. Officers were elected:  
 Mrs. T. N. Vincent—Hon. President; Mrs. F. E. Holman, treasurer; Mrs. L. Spangler, first vice-president; Mrs. H. L. Spangler, second vice-president; Mrs. Allan McAvity, third vice-president; Mrs. W. F. Hathway, fourth vice-president; Mrs. Poole, secretary; Mrs. J. Wickett, financial secretary.

Just

We hear about it at pr

A well dressed woman

There are many "wise

F

Sum

KNOX STRAW

SAILORS

\$4.85

FINE SILK TA

DRESSES

in colors and

\$21.00, \$30.00, \$35

ORENU

SCARV

\$4.65

HUDSON SEAL

for \$31.00 e

of \$40.00 va

KNOX HATS

\$4.85 each