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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1919.

JAPAN'S FOOD PROBLEM.

The government of Japan is in danger of defeat through too large measure of success in its efforts to boost the price of rice. A few years ago rice sold at retail at too low a figure to suit the farmers who, because of inadequate returns, permitted production to run down. In order that a sufficient supply for home requirements should be produced, the Okuma ministry took steps to bring about an advance in the market by controlling a portion of the crop. A minimum price of fifteen yen, equal to seven dollars and fifty cents, per koku (five bushels) was aimed at. Under the succeeding administration, however, the price continued to rise steadily until it reached the equivalent of five dollars per bushel, instead of one dollar and twenty-five cents per bushel desired to guarantee protection. Then rioting began, the Terauchi ministry was forced out of office, and as a result of temporary reduction in price, the rioting subsided in September of last year. It was then considered that the rapid increase in the price of rice during the term of that ministry was due to the shortage of stock before the new crop was put on the market, but that the activities of speculators and the restricted importation of foreign rice were also factors. The Hara ministry now in office has adopted a different attitude and although the price fell early this year when the new crop came on the market, it is again rising and has almost reached the figure at which it stood when the foot riots occurred. Now the opposition party is appealing to the people on a policy consisting almost wholly of food control. This platform promises that in the event of success action will be taken against the farmers who are hoarding rice, that export will be prohibited, that all import duties will be cancelled and foreign rice purchased and that the distillation of rice will be discouraged until such time as the home production becomes sufficient to easily supply the population. At the present price a laborer earning fifty cents a day eats nine cents worth of rice and if he has a wife and children it is easily seen that his entire wages may be used in the purchase of this one article alone.

DOCTORS AND PREACHERS.

A discussion between the doctors and the clergymen on the subject of prohibition as administered in New Brunswick would be productive of a great deal of interest, the more so as many of our people, who at the polls endorse prohibition, stoutly oppose it in conversation. That is one of the peculiar facts in connection with this form of legislation, for the ordinary man, however much inclined he may be to admit the value of liquor in certain cases, is unwilling to adopt any attitude which may prove harmful to the other fellow. The doctors in conference here the other day said many things which they do not really mean, and the preachers occasionally gave utterance to sentiments which they know conditions do not justify. These are characteristic features of the professions in which each are engaged, and naturally the members of these professions favor, in conversation at least, such circumstances as will tend to make more easy their own particular occupations. The doctor who finds his treatment of patients hampered by the difficulty of securing alcohol or liquors, protests as is perfectly natural, against restrictions so imposed, while the clergyman realizes that the moral and social life of his congregation and of the community in which he works may be maintained on a higher plane by the general enforcement of temperance legislation. Yet as a matter of fact the clergymen know, and privately admit, that sometimes the frequently beneficial, while the moderate men are equally free to confess that liquor as a beverage is very often injurious. If these two opposing forces could come together as ordinary laymen have come together, they would realize that each particular group is looking toward the well-being of humanity in the mass, and that a little give and take on each side would bring them into harmony of opinion. The medical association has expressed itself by means of a resolution, and certain clergymen have replied. Much more may be said on both sides, and facts dealing with actual experience in these two leading professions would help materially to clear the way for intelligent consideration of such phases of the prohibition question as may be placed before the people of New Brunswick in connection with the coming plebiscite.

LABOR UNIONS.

The annual report on Labor Organization in Canada, which, as is customary with Government reports, appears six or seven months after the close of the year covered, has just been issued. From figures contained in this review it is clear that there has been marked activity in almost every line of organized labor during the year and that trade union membership in this Dominion has reached

the highest point recorded since Government notice has been taken of this phase of industrial development. In December, 1918, the total reported membership of all classes of labor bodies in Canada was 248,887, an increase of more than 44,000 over the previous year and almost double the membership in 1911 when the first official report was presented. In this country there are 2,274 local unions, of which number 1,897, representing 201,432 members, are affiliated with international organizations. Of the remainder, 332, with 37,928 members, are connected with what are termed non-international bodies, while 45 unions, with a membership of 9,527, are independent units. There was an increase of 135 international local branches during the year 1918 with a membership gain of 36,538, while non-international show a union gain of 105 units and 7,731 members. As might naturally be expected, the majority of the unions are located in the more important cities—in fact 1,323 of these branches are found in thirty-one cities and between them represent more than two-thirds of the entire union membership. Montreal, of course, leads with 140 local unions and approximately 40,000 members. St. John is credited with 28 unions, of which 21 reported an aggregate membership of 3,040. Local branch unions in Canada have paid out during the year 1918 to their members a total of \$431,504, which is \$118,288 greater than in the preceding year, of which amount death benefits accounted for \$170,578, unemployment benefits \$6,573, strike benefits \$71,071, sick benefits \$129,097, and other purposes \$54,191.

TIME PASSES.

Week after week the summer is slipping away. Already it is July. Next month it will be August, and if we live long enough the season will stretch into September. Meanwhile an occasional watering cart with a semi-conscious driver looms its way over the ruts and bumps of the city streets in a futile endeavor to keep down the ever increasing dust. And the weeks keep on slipping away—beautiful weeks for ditch digging, glorious weather for laying water mains, brilliant summer days for paving, an ideal atmosphere for making concrete. Our people are long suffering, slow to anger and pensive in temper, but there is a limit beyond which few can go, and when the tax bills of which we have already heard so much are distributed, and when our people are asked to pay the heavily increased assessment without the enjoyment of necessary civic improvements, there will be an epidemic of brainstorms.

THE SWIMMING SCOWS.

Surely the success which is attending the swimming scows established by the city more than justifies the comparatively small expense involved. Since Blue Rock was taken over for railway purposes, the most accessible bathing beach in St. John has passed out of existence. There is nothing nearer than Bay Shore and that means too much of a trip for the majority of people. Of course those who are sufficiently fortunate to be able to spend the summer months up the river or along the coast, are not interested in this matter, but many thousands compelled to remain in St. John would, if opportunity offered, enjoy the privilege of an occasional bath or swim if suitable accommodation were provided. The scows now in use are patronized not only by boys and girls but by scores and hundreds of adults as well, and are becoming more popular every week. If at all possible further investment in equipment of this nature might profitably be made so that an even larger number of persons might enjoy this healthful exercise.

WHAT THEY SAY

Hunches from Hell.
Boston Transcript: "William believed he had Divine Right." But his entire career makes it obvious that whatever hunches he received in the way of inspiration came from below rather than from above.

The Profiters.
Philadelphia Public Ledger: "We must as a community realize that the profiteer is the Hun of the present and that we must give him no quarter until he surrenders unconditionally. He alone can today feed the flames that may consume Europe and imperil the peace and prosperity of America."

By Sea and Land.
New York Herald: "Presidents may come and Presidents may go, but our President does both." Is the latest contribution of a local comedian to the gaiety of nations. But all Presidents have not such a fine ferryboat as the George Washington to say nothing of that special train for transcontinental purposes.

Clarification Demanded.
New York Tribune: "Since March the covenant in its present form has been before the country. Public opinion has had ample time to inform itself and to react on the Senate. The

consequence has been that the demand for a clarification of the covenant has increased, not diminished. Those who would swallow it whole have had a full hearing, and there is no reason to anticipate a different judgment if the arguments are repeated. Veto, Mr. Senator, at the earliest possible hour!"

Fraudulent Riders.
New York World: "It was as a rider to the foot-coupons that that war-time prohibition was fastened upon the country, and there is never a session of Congress but from one to half a dozen fraudulent coupon law-makers are smuggled through in that form. There has not been a President in a generation who has not been compelled to accept legislation, which he would otherwise have vetoed, because it came to him as a rider to a bill that he was bound to approve. If President Wilson can wreck this ancient Congressional fraud he will have done quite as useful a service to the country as by preserving the daylight-saving act."

Key Industries.
New York Times: "Factories can no more produce goods without coal than laborers can work without food. A shortage of coal means a shortage of everything else, not even excepting natural products, for they depend on coal for carriage from where they grow to where they are wanted. No one knows better than the unions what key industries are. Key industries are industries upon which other industries depend for their ability to work to advantage, or in some cases to work at all. The unions are getting what they ask not because their services are worth the money, but because they know just what to ask for and how to ask it."

Sympathy For China.
New York Sun: "No matter what the League of Nations decrees the people of the United States are not going to help Japan to take and hold the great Chinese territory and the millions of Chinese population which the Paris Peace Conference has agreed shall be torn away from China. If China ever goes to war with Japan, if China ever goes to war with other members of the League of Nations, if China and some other nation or nations make war on Japan to get back that stolen property, the people of the United States will never send a soldier, will never spend a penny to keep China out of her rights. All the power wait to find it out later."

A BIT OF VERSE

THE PRINCESS PATS.
You've read of the charge of the "Light Brigade."
How they faced both shot and shell,
Of the gallant, desperate charge they made.
Into the very jaws of hell—
How only half of them came back.
To receive the glory they'd won—
Now, let's to the tale of the Princess Pats,
Who won victory from the Hun.

They sailed away to a foreign land
A full three thousand strong.
They went, a gallant fighting band,
To fight a world-wide wrong.
To fight for King and Princess Pat,
For home and friends.
They needed no good, but at drop of hat
Rushed on—a resistless tide.

Down into the valley of Death,
Down into the jaws of hell,
And out from the fume of the battle
Came
But few returned to tell
How breast to breast with death they fought.
To hold a fair Princess' fame,
Her flag, a flag with a royal tinge,
Inscribed with royal name.

In France they lie, with poppies red
O'er them—as cross their valor'd
A pall of beauty o'er hero dead,
Lest some for Canada's sake
On honor's shield, their name engrave.
Let nation mourn their loss,
They died the silent folds to save
Of their Princess' flag, at any cost.
—E. W. H.
Jefferson City, Mo.

A BIT OF FUN

A good cook isn't necessarily one that attends church seven times a week.

Magistrate—"Officer, how on earth did these men come to be so badly bruised?"
Officer—"Please, your honor, they were discussing the peace settlement."

"So the cook is going to leave," said the husband.
"I don't know. I discharged her today, and she said she would think it over."

Tommy—"Papa, where is Atoms?"
Father—"Atoms? I don't know, my boy. You mean Athens probably?"
Tommy—"No, I mean Atoms—the place where everything is blown to."

Hearing Things.
One summer evening a miller was leaning over his garden gate, facing the road, enjoying his pipe, when a concealed young farmer happened to be passing. The miller, in a friendly tone, said:
"Good evening, George."
"I didn't speak," said George gruffly.
"Oh," said the miller. "I thought you did; it must have been your ears flapping."

Safety First.
An old fellow on his deathbed, in making his will, murmured to his lawyer:
"And to each of my employees who have been with me twenty years or more I bequeath two thousand pounds."

"No, no, no," said the sick man. "No, not at all," said the lawyer. "You see, none of them have been

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

If everybody was always sick, they would never appreciate the value of good health. For this reason it is better to feel sick once in a while for a change. If your health has been perfect for a long while you just feel natural, but if it suddenly gets perfect after a case of pneumonia or a broken leg, you feel greatly relieved.
When 2 people pass each other on the street the first one says, How are you? and the 2nd one says, How are you? without saying how he is himself, and the first one don't say anything more. Proving they are both all right.
When you feel pretty sick you start to think about seeing a doctor, and when you feel very sick you actually go to see one, and when you feel awful sick one comes to see you, and if you get even worse than that he brings another one with him.
A doctor can tell how your feeling inside by how you're looking outside. No matter what he tells you is the matter with you, you believe it. Doctors with wiskers look as if they know more than doctors with naked faces, probably being the reason why so many have wiskers. Just by taking the number of your pulse, a doctor can tell how you feel to yourself by how you feel to him.
The most popular way to get sick is thru your stomach, the reason being that your stomach can stand sarten things such as cucumbers and milk mixed and all kinds of poisons. The sickest you can get is when your hart stops beating.
When you are sick your family sends you flowers and when you are dead everybody sends them. This proves that when you are able to enjoy things the most you awfin dont get the chance.

With me over a year; but it will look good in the papers, won't it?"

Not Much in It.
As the millionaire climbed into his costly motor car, a shabby urchin offered him a newspaper.
"Get away!" he snarled. "I don't want a paper. Clear out!"
The newsboy stood fast as he replied:
"Don't get excited, guv'nor. The only difference between you and me is that you are making your second million, while I'm still working on my first."

Quite Simple.
Mother was very keen on correct deportment, and never lost a chance of instilling it into Mabel.
"There's one important thing, my dear," she said. "You must never point at anything."
"But, mamma," objected the girl, "suppose I am shopping and don't know the name of a thing?"
"Then let the assistant show you everything in the store until he comes to the article you desire."

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

FLY THE FLAG.

To the Editor of The Standard:
Sir,—On Saturday our attention was called to a very unfortunate and glaring disregard of public sentiment here. While, domestic automobiles, gaily decorated in a patriotic manner, were passing and repassing, it is an almost unbelievable fact that no flag was flying from any of the public buildings. The County Court House, the Post Office and the Consolidated School all have flags supplied at public expense; all flags in charge paid by the public, and yet these men could not find time to hoist the emblem of Liberty on a national and empire holiday by Royal proclamation. The returned soldiers, of whom there is a large number in Hampton, were very outspoken in denouncing this astounding indifference. "We ought to keep the old flag flying, and surely it ought to fly today," was heard on all sides from the veterans. It is suggested that an act be passed by the Legislature that the flag on all

THIN PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE PHOSPHATE

Nothing Like Plain Bitro-Phosphate to Put on Firm, Healthy Flesh and to Increase Strength, Vigor and Nerve Force.

Judging from the countless preparations and treatments which are continually being advertised for the purpose of making thin people fleshy, developing arms, necks and bust, and replacing ugly hollows and angles of the soft curved lines of health and beauty, there are evidently thousands of men and women who keenly feel their excessive thinness.
Thinness and weakness are usually due to starved nerves. Our bodies need more phosphate than is contained in modern foods. Physicians claim there is nothing that will supply this deficiency so well as the organic phosphate known among druggists as bitro-phosphate, which is inexpensive and is sold by the Ross Drug Co. in St. John and most all druggists under a back. By feeding the nerves directly and by supplying the body cells with the necessary phosphoric food elements, bitro-phosphate quickly produces a welcome transformation in the appearance; the increase in weight frequently being astonishing.
This increase in weight also carries with it a general improvement in the health. Nervousness, sleeplessness and lack of energy, which nearly always accompany excessive thinness, soon disappear, dull eyes become bright, and pale cheeks glow with the bloom of perfect health.
CAUTION:—Although bitro-phosphate is unsurpassed for relieving nervousness, sleeplessness and general weakness, it should not, owing to its remarkable flesh-growing properties, be used by anyone who does not desire to put on flesh.

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