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ST. ANDREWS, N. B., CANADA.

Saturday, 4th January, 1919.

THE PROGRESS OF PEACE

WHILE the thoughts of most peoples
are bent eagerly towards the
establishment of peace throughout
the world, the Bolshevik regime in Russia
is still continuing the war aggressively, its
Red Army advancing southwestward
from Petrograd for the purpose of
subjugating those recently formed inde-
pendent states which separated from
Russia at the time of rise of the Bolshe-
viki, namely, Estonia, Livonia, Courland,
and Lithuania; and the Red Army was
said to have occupied Vilna, the capital of
Lithuania, and to be approaching Riga in
Livonia. But in the north, the Allied
army operating from the White Sea, with
Archangel as a base, and supporting the
local Russian army opposed to the
Bolsheviks, has made substantial advances
in the direction of Vologda, in spite of
stubborn resistance on the part of the
Bolsheviks. Russia is the chief obstacle
to peace, — an obstacle that must be over-
come by internal concord or by external
pressure. The Russian situation will
constitute one of the most serious prob-
lems to be dealt with at the Peace Con-
ference.

President Wilson has completed his
historical visit to England and returned to
France, whence he was to leave for Rome.
The visit to England was everywhere
made the occasion of most enthusiastic
popular demonstrations which deeply im-
pressed the President, and it has appar-
ently been the means of cementing the
great friendship which has always existed
between the two great nations which
speak the same language and are actu-
ated by the same principles of freedom and
justice. So far as can be learned from
the dispatches, complete concord has
been established between Great Britain
and the United States in regard to the
peace terms to be formulated at the Con-
ference, which, it is now announced, is
to assemble this month.

The elections in Great Britain have re-
sulted in a great personal triumph for
the Premier, David Lloyd George, his
government having been returned to
power by an overwhelming majority.
In France, too, the government of Premier
Georges Clemeneau has been sustained by
great majorities in the Chamber of Deputies
and in the Senate. Everything
augurs well for a complete agreement be-
tween the Great Powers, as Great Britain
and France are believed already to have
united their policies; and the conformity
of Italy thereto will probably be announ-
ced after President Wilson's visit to Rome.

Demobilization of the British army is
proceeding as rapidly as possible, and is
being handled as well as such a problem,
always difficult, can be dealt with. Of
course complete demobilization cannot be
effected until peace has been formally de-
clared, for the army of occupation in Ger-
many must be kept up to full strength and
be prepared for all eventualities. The
Allied occupation of Germany seems to be
working as smoothly as could be expected,
but there is some little friction in the large
cities over the regulations enforced by the
Allied military commanders. In Berlin
there have been serious riots caused by
the extreme socialists, and a number of
people have been killed; but it seems that
generally throughout Germany the people
are accepting as gracefully as possible the
present situation, and want peace and con-
cord as speedily as possible.

Canadian troops, war-stained veterans,
continue to arrive in great numbers al-
most daily, and their home-coming is the
occasion of great rejoicing throughout the
Dominion. The Canadian Government
is, apparently, making proper provision
for the returned men, and is handling de-
mobilization in an efficient manner.
There is no question of the returned men
being able to find positions at least as
good as those they vacated to enlist.
Canada can give employment to all these
men, and to many more besides.

ABSENTEE OWNERSHIP

Topeka, Kan., December 18.—In an
effort to reduce the tenantry of farms in
the State, the Board of Agriculture has
taken up changes in taxation of farm
lands. A meeting has been called to out-
line these for the Legislature at its ap-
proaching meeting. Large tracts of land
are handled by renters, and absentee own-
ership is growing at a rate unexampled.
As lands change hands they drift into the

ownership of well-to-do bankers and
town men, or the farmers retire and live
at ease while their farms produce a com-
fortable income. It has not been unusual
for these owners to receive \$15 an acre
net from wheat land during the past two
years—a very large interest on their in-
vestment.

The plan of the State Board is to im-
pose a higher rate of taxation on tenant
lands than on farms occupied by
their owners. On farms of 160 acres
or less the land in indebtedness shall not
be included in taxation. It is also propos-
ed to increase the rate of taxation with
increased holdings of all property in land.
Whether these can be carried out within
the limits of the Constitution is to be
determined by the Board in its new Tax
law to be submitted to the Legislature.
It is, however, a serious effort to lessen
in some degree the tenant farming system
and bring lands back to management by
the owners. Farms are deteriorating
under the tenant system, and improve-
ments are allowed to run down, all affect-
ing materially the rural development of
the state.—The New York evening Post.

** The above article is printed not
so much as an interesting item of news
as a peg whereon to hang a moral which
should be taken to heart by the people of
St. Andrews. There are many things that
operate together to retard the natural
progress and development of this Town,
but one of the most conspicuous is absentee
landlordism. In many parts of the
Town are to be seen shabby old buildings
out of repair, denuded of paint, and pre-
sented a deplorably woebegone ap-
pearance. In almost every case these
buildings do not belong to the persons
occupying, or even to other residents of
the Town, but are the property of others
who may or may not have lived here at
some former time but now reside else-
where. The consequence is that the
money paid for the rent of these build-
ings is sent out of the Town instead of
being circulated within it, the grasping
absentee landlords not even spending the
money necessary to keep the buildings in
decent repair. Just what can be done to
remedy this undesirable state of affairs
may not be apparent, but the question is
one that might very well engage the at-
tention of the Town Council. If thought
desirable, the Town might obtain legis-
lative authority to impose a higher rate of
taxation on buildings owned by absentee
landlords; but, on the other hand, should
such a course be legally pursued it might
result in further increasing the rent of the
tenants, who are probably excessively
rack-rented as it is. The problem is well
worth consideration, and we shall be
pleased to receive the views of our readers
on the subject.

Whatever one may think of absentee
landlordism and rack-renting, there can-
not be two opinions in regard to increasing
the rate of taxation on unoccupied land
in the Town. Vacant lots should be
assessed at the full value the owners set
upon them to would-be purchasers, and
not at a merely nominal value as at pre-
sent. What is the good to the community
of all the vacant lots in the Town? The
great majority of them are only a nuisance
and an eye-sore;—a nuisance, because
they are the growing places of noxious
weeds which are blown broadcast and in-
fect cultivated fields and gardens; an eye-
sore because they are the receptacles and
abiding-places of all kinds of rubbish, the
filth and jetsam of the Town.

Why are these places vacant? In most
cases the answer to this proper query is:
—The price demanded by the owner is
prohibitive to the would-be purchaser. In
many cases the vacant lots have been se-
cured by their present owners for purely
speculative purposes, for they have hoped
that in some eventuality, other than that
caused by their own enterprise or ex-
penditure, the land will increase in value
and they will reap the unearned increment.
The low assessment valuation of these lots
is a potent aid to those who hope to derive
a profit from the enterprise of others.

It will probably be remembered that
when the Town applied for legislation anent
the prospective installation of a
water-works system, in the original draft
of the Bill voting on the question was re-
stricted to owners of land. The clause
was inserted by one who, perhaps, had an
object in trying to keep the whole control
of Town affairs in the hands of the owners
of land, whether improved or not. Fortu-
nately this attempt to disfranchise a
number of our most useful and active
ratepayers was frustrated. We only refer
to it here for the purpose of accentuating
the fact that, in the opinion of one man at
least, the ownership of land alone qualifies
a ratepayer to vote on an important
question affecting the whole community.

If the possession of land were to con-
stitute the sole qualification to vote on a
question vitally affecting the entire com-
munity, then land alone should bear the
whole burden of taxation. You cannot
have it both ways. Vacant land is now
virtually exempt from taxation, the rating
by the assessors being a merely nominal
one.

In the valuation of property for assess-
ment purposes real property should be
rated proportionately as high as personal
property. If a ratepayer invests money
in bonds or securities that are not specifi-
cally tax-exempt, his investments (if
known or declared) are taxed, pro rata,
at their actual face value. The rule should
apply to real property also. Doubtlessly
many persons in Town would be willing
to acquire land and improve it, if it could
be obtained at its actual present value

Land is necessarily limited and cannot be
increased in area. Those holding it in an
unimproved condition in anticipation of
increased values when, by some miracu-
lous development of the Town, the price
of land will soar, should, in the meantime
be taxed on the unearned increment they
hope ultimately to derive. Under the
present system people who engage in
commerce and manufacturing here are
actually fined for investing in merchandise
and plant, while the land-owner escapes
from paying his due proportion of taxes.
This condition ought not to be tolerated
any longer, and the matter should receive
the early and earnest consideration of the
Town Council.

Holiday weather has been a disappoint-
ment this season, both Christmas and
New Year being drizzling wet days.
After Christmas there were two or three
days of frosty weather, which made ice
and enabled the youth of the Town to
enjoy skating on the new rink; but the
rain on Wednesday spoiled the skating.
The ground has been denuded of snow
during the holidays, and there was no
sleighting; but yesterday there was quite
a heavy fall of snow, and it is to be hoped
that it will remain. The winter, so far,
has been unusually mild; and this is in
marked contrast to last winter, which
was unusually severe throughout. Mild
weather is appreciated as an aid to the
solution of the fuel problem.

FIRST TO AID—LAST TO
APPEAL

The Salvation Army was the first of
the strictly social organizations to follow
the British Army to Belgium. On the
18th of August, 1914, its Officers and
Soldiers appeared at Brussels ready to
help the boys.
We all know how the Army has kept
up with the fighting boys. Right to the
front line with the coffee and the sand-
wiches, and farther back huts for crea-
tion and social purposes were estab-
lished. They have 197 huts. Over 300,-
000 soldiers daily have received comfort
and help and guidance from the lasses
and the matrons who fight under the
Blood-and-Fire Banner.

Till now the Salvation Army has not
asked for money, except in small contri-
butions on the street corners. Other
agencies have appealed for help to carry
on their good work with the soldiers. The
Salvation Army is now asking for a
million dollars to continue the good work
on the battle-fields. The request is
reasonable. But it should not be left
for a few to subscribe. This is a chance
for everybody. Will you help?

KEEPING DAIRY HERD RECORDS

The Dairy and Cold Storage Branch of
the Ottawa Department of Agriculture has
issued an eight-page circular giving exact
instructions relative to the keeping of
dairy herd records. The circular states
that the Department will pay to any
qualified tester 10cts. for each Babcock
test made from the composite samples of
any herd. The party who does the testing
must provide the Babcock tester and the
necessary glassware and equipment for
making the test. The Department, how-
ever, will provide free of charge the sul-
phuric acid preservation tablets, return
envelopes, credit slips, labels for the com-
posite sample bottles, and blank forms
for recording the weights of milk at the
farm. The duties of the testers will be to
test the composite samples each month,
enter the tests on the record sheets
and forward the same to Ottawa.
With the circular, a sample is given of
the record and the manner in which it
should be kept and blank application
forms, first, for assistance in herd record
work and, second, for employment as a
milk tester. It should be stated that no
postage is required when writing to the
Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner,
Ottawa, and also that the circular here
referred to can be had free from the
Publications Branch at Ottawa.

VON TIRPIZ SHAVES

The startling news has just come to
hand that the ineffable Von Tirpitz has
shaved his wonderful whiskers. One's
first idea is that he must have grown them
in the first place in satisfaction of a
lost bet and honor now being satisfied
with the lapse of the time specified, he is
at liberty to take back his human shape
again. The British Navy has played
Delilah to Germany's very hirsute Samson
with a vengeance. In the days of Drake
the boast used to be that our naval com-
manders had singed the King of Spain's
beard; in the days of Beatty it is Von
Tirpitz's whiskers that have gone by the
board. Other times, same manners,
Von Tirpitz will now presumably
shave his head also, and make diligent
inquiries as to the war price of sackcloth
and ashes.—Bystander, London.

Hokus—"I can read him like a book."
Fokus—"But he's such a small type. I
should think you'd ruin your eyes."—
Judge.

Edith—"Mr. Boreleigh? Oh dear I'll
have Ninette tell him I'm out." Alice—
"Won't the still, small voice reproach
you?" Edith—"Maybe; but I'd much
rather hear the still, small voice than Mr.
Boreleigh's."—Boston Transcript.

GREAT BRITAIN'S NEW
PARLIAMENT

London, Dec. 29.—Complete returns
for the election of the new parliament
give the following results:
Coalition Unionists 334
Coalition Liberals 127
Coalition Laborites 10
Unionists 46
Asquithian Liberals 37
Laborites 65
National Party 2
Independents 5
Socialists 1
Sinn Feiners 73
Irish Nationalists 7
All Coalitionists with the Unionists and
National party may be regarded roughly
as supporting Lloyd George. The only
opposition will be formed by the Asqui-
thian Liberals, Laborites, and Indepen-
dents, barely more than 100 members in
a house of 707.

Not only has no coalition minister been
defeated, but most of them were re-elected
by extraordinary majorities. On the
other hand, the pacifists were almost in
every case ignominiously defeated by
heavy votes. The rejected candidates in
this group included Phillip Snowden,
James Ramsay MacDonald, Wm. C. An-
derson, Arthur Henderson, (the Labor
leader), Robert L. Outhwaite, Frederick
W. Jowett, George Lansbury (former
socialist member), and Charles P. Trevel-
yan (former Parliamentary Secretary
for Education).

In addition to the defeat of Asquith and
Sir John Simon the Liberals lost Reginald
McKenna, former Chancellor of the Ex-
chequer; Walter Runciman, former Presi-
dent of the Board of Trade; Herbert
Samuel, former Postmaster-General; Charles
F. Masterman, former Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster, and others.

Labor fared badly in the elections,
though more fortunate than the Asquithi-
ans. They had expected to elect at least
one hundred members, where they have
only approximately seventy-five, of whom
ten are coalitionists. This, however, is
much larger representation than Labor
had in the old parliament.

It is difficult to compare the results of
1910, owing to the numerous rearrange-
ments of constituencies under the last re-
form act, but a comparison on the whole
shows that London has gone almost solid
for the coalition. Only three independent
Liberals were returned and the two
Laborites returned are both coalitionists.

The net result of the election is sum-
med up in to-day's papers as a personal
triumph for Premier Lloyd George in the
disappearance of the two great parties,
the Liberals and Irish Nationalists.

It is pointed out that Labor largely
voiced coalition in the expectation that a
policy agreeable to Labor would be pur-
sued. George Nicoll Barnes, Labor
member of the war cabinet, in a state-
ment issued in Glasgow, expressed the
opinion that the Labor party has lost a
great chance by truckling to the pacifists
and Bolshevists.

An analysis of the polling shows that
London and Scotland polled less than half
the total electorate, while English bor-
oughs and counties polled little more than
one-half, and Wales just half.

Of fourteen women candidates, only

FIRST
Big Bargains
—for the—
New Year

7 COATS
In Black and Navy all
wool English Astrachan
Cloth. Sizes, 15-17-19.
Big pocket and belt, last
year's style, a little short-
er than this season's coats.
Good value at \$10.00.
Pick one out for \$5.00.

FURS
25 Dark Brown Oppos-
sum Pillow Muffs worth
\$6.00. Take one for
\$2.75.

If you do not need a Muff,
buy one and cut it up for a
Fur Collar and Cuffs on your
old coat and make it look
like new. These are splen-
did values for any one.

C. C. GRANT
St. Stephen, N. B.

one will be entitled to sit in the House of
Commons, namely, a Sinn Fein, Countess
Markievicz, who was elected for St.
Patrick's division of Dublin city.

All the other women candidates, includ-
ing many of the foremost in the women's
movement, were rejected by their con-
stituencies. Christabel Pankhurst came
the nearest to being elected, being defeat-
ed only by a narrow majority by a
Laborite.

The Sinn Feiners not only swept Ire-
land, but gained their seats with enormous
majorities, leaving the Nationalist repre-
sentation in the new parliament a bare
seven members. John Dillon, the Nation-
alist leader, was defeated by E. DeValera,
Sinn Feiner, for East Mayo, by a majority
of more than 4,000. Joseph Devlin, how-
ever, defeated DeValera for the West
Belfast seat.

Ex-Premier Asquith's defeat, which
caused a great sensation, is explained by
the Liberals as owing to the fact that the
constituency of East Fife has been en-
larged and includes a substantial Conserva-
tive element which hitherto has not had
the opportunity of voting against him.

While the Sinn Feiners also completely
routed the Nationalists in Ireland they
did not make much of an impression on
Ulster.

CONFESSEDLY INNOCENT

The manager of a big downtown hotel
telephoned to the police station the other
day, thus:

"I wish you would send a plain clothes
man over here. There's a suspicious
character loafing in front of the hotel."
So they sent two detectives over. And
when the detectives arrived on the other
side of the street one said to the other:
"Now, I'll go over and brace the guy and

you just stroll past a few times until I
need you."

And then the first detective went over
and carelessly entered into conversation
with the stranger.

"Pretty hot, ain't it?" said the minor
of the law.

"Yep," answered the stranger, pleasant-
ly. "It does get hot in Cleveland, don't
it?"

"Stranger in town?"

"Yes. Come from Aurora. Had a lit-
tle time off—threshin's all done—and
thought I'd come up and see the sights."

By this time the other detective had
strolled past for the third time, and the
stranger noticed him.

"Who's that feller hangin' around here?"
he asked.

"Why," answered the detective in a
kidding vein, "that's Francis X. Bushman,
the famous movie actor. Why?"

"Why," answered the stranger. "I'm
kinder green, an' I was fool enough to
think he was another one o' you de-
tectives!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Am I the only girl you ever loved?"

"No, but you are the only one who had
sense enough to appreciate it."—Balti-
more American.

Spanish Flu

Claims Many Victims in Canada
and should be guarded against

Minard's Liniment

Is a Great Preventive, being one of the oldest
remedies used. Minard's Liniment has cured
thousands of cases of Grippe, Bronchitis, Sore
Throat, Asthma, and similar diseases. It is an
Enemy to Germs. Thousands of bottles being
used every day. For sale by all druggists and
general dealers.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CO., Ltd., Yarmouth, N.S.

We take this opportunity of wishing you
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
And hope you will continue to favor us with your
patronage during 1919 as in the past.
We Have in Stock
A seasonable line of goods such as
Perfection Heaters Carriage Heaters
Flashlights, Batteries, and Bulbs.
Anso cameras, Films, and Supplies.
All kinds of building Hardware.
Tools, Kitchen Wares, etc.
J. A. SHIRLEY
St. Andrews, N. B.

INTERNATIONAL
STOCK FOOD
Pails, 25lbs., \$3.75; Pkgs., 25c., 50c.,
and \$1.00.
PRATT'S ANIMAL REGULATOR
Pkgs., 30c., 60c., & \$1.00
MORE EGGS
International Poultry Tonic, 25c.
Pratt's Poultry Regulator, 30c.
Watch the increase in Eggs.
DR. DANIEL'S HORSE REMEDIES
G. K. GREENLAW
GROCER SAINT ANDREWS, N. B.
(Canada Food Board License No. 8-1160)

Advertising Pays---Try a Beacon Adv.

Social and
Mr. and Mrs. Lloy
spent Christmas in S
turned home.
Mr. Abert Thomps
Capt. H. P. O'Neill o
Miss Nellie DeWolf
was the guest of M
Hibbard on Friday. D
Mr. and Mrs. Percy
in Amherst, N. S.
The Misses Laura
Greenlaw have returne
Miss Dorothy McV
grandmother, Mrs. Th
Miss Alice DeWolf
spent the week-end the
Vernon Lamb.
Miss Nonie Sheehan
supper party on Mond
Miss Dorothy Lamb
end in Campbell.
Corp. Whitman, who
friends here, has returne
Nova Scotia.
Dr. Harry Gove was
professional business th
Mr. John McCullough
Rogers were passing
evening's train for St. J
Mr. Beni. Hanson
Moncton.
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur
cen spent the vacation.
Miss Phyllis Cockbur
St. John.
Miss Alice Anderson
John.
Miss Louis Greenla
visiting friends in St. A
The many friends
Truesdell's are sorry th
fell on Friday, and fract
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin
have returned home,
visit with relatives at B
Mrs. W. R. Wentwort
a recent guest of Mrs. H
Mrs. Joseph Gibson an
Greenlaw were called to
nesday by the death
Greenlaw.
Miss Edith Hewitt is v
Mrs. Hartley Wentwor
Mrs. Margaret Gilmai
staff, spent the New Year
mother at Bartlett's Mill
The Misses Merce
Canavan, who spent the
days with their mot
Canavan, have returned
Mr. Geo. King, of
Station, spent Christmas
Town.
Mrs. John McGowan
spent Sunday with he
Wm. Hannigan.
Miss Edith Townsens
was the guest of Mrs. Y
week.
Miss Bessie Wren ha
Riviere du Loup.
Mr. and Mrs. Austin B
trip to New York.
Mrs. Vernon Lamb, M
Miss Bessie Gimmer,
Wren went to St. John
evening.
Mr. and Mrs. Orville E
spent the holidays with
J. McQuoid, have return
Mr. Melvin McQuoid
his work in Halifax.
Mrs. McCormick and
Stephen, spent the New
and Mrs. Wheeler Mallo
Mr. George Malloch, o
visiting his brother, Mr. V
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O
at a midnight supper on
Miss Hetherington, of
her guest, Miss Spicer,
visitors of Mrs. Thos. Cou
Miss Bessie Thompson
Portland, Me.
William Hannigan left
up his studies at the
Joseph's College, St. Josep
Capt. H. P. O'Neill, o
Military Hospital, Freder
ed a few of his friends on
ing at his residence on Qu
Mr. Hugh Judge, of W
town on Thursday.
Mrs. P. G. Hanson we
on Thursday night's train
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin
pleasantly entertained at
New Year's Day.
Picture—if you can—the
crestfallen expression on
plumber who has just re
bill for automobile repai
gaged garage man.—Buffa
"See Henry Ford is go
newspaper." "Does he
about running a newspa
know a heap. I notice he
got \$40,000,000 before ar
see."—Louisville Courier-J