

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1922.

AMERICA WILL NOT ATTEND THE GENOA CONFERENCE.

The United States will not be at the Genoa Conference, that Government having declined to participate, in it, and the reasons for this action are frankly set forth in the reply of Secretary Hughes to Ambassador Ricci, informing him of that Nation's conclusion.

The secretary in his note said:

"I regret to inform Your Excellency that as a result of this examination, it has been found impossible to escape the conclusion that the proposed Conference is not primarily an economic conference, as questions appear to have been excluded from consideration without the satisfactory determination of which the chief causes of economic disturbance must continue to operate, but is rather a conference of a political character in which the Government of the United States could not helpfully participate. This Government cannot be unkind of the clear conviction of the American people, while the Conference has been abundantly demonstrated, suitably to assist in the recovery of the economic life of Europe, that they should not necessarily become involved in European political questions."

This statement of Mr. Hughes covers the whole case. In the opinion of the United States Government, certain causes contribute to the economic disturbance of Europe. The consideration of these causes is excluded from the proceedings of the proposed Conference. Therefore, the United States declines to participate in these proceedings.

Between Great Britain and the United States have undoubtedly existed the "Genoa Conference" by their stipulations and avoidance, German reparations have been excluded by France and they affect Europe's economic life profoundly. Granted that Germany owes 15 billions to her conquerors while the conquerors owe 11 billions to America one of their number; how soon could Europe regain her economic and financial equilibrium with those vast debts so that the world could not know how they could ever be liquidated even in part? The Hughes note admits that there can be no improvement in world conditions in the absence of European recuperation. Trade stagnation must continue, in short, and the United States must still be adversely affected by it because the Washington administration must have conditions in Europe exactly right before it will consent to send a delegate to an economic conference.

It may be necessary to wait for many years if America is to insist always that the European war debt to the American treasury shall not be brought under discussion, that Russia shall first establish an economic system for the production of wealth in accord with the ideals of Judge Gary and the principles of the American constitution, and that Europe in a general way must "put her own house in order" before America can share officially in the attempted solution of her economic problems.

AGAIN, FAIR PLAY.

In its participation in the discussion of the Hydro-Electric question, The Standard has been actuated all along solely by a desire to promote the best interests of the city, and in pursuance of this policy, it has urged that no steps be taken which will result in the city's becoming irretrievably burdened with an undertaking, unless and until it has been reliably demonstrated, as nearly as it is possible to demonstrate, that it is not going to be a financial loss. We regret, however, to notice the tone of the articles which appear in our contemporaries, both their own and those contributed by correspondents, which, either by accident or design, certainly give the impression that the anxiety which exists among certain sections of the community that the city should undertake the sale and distribution of light and power, is not actuated so much by the hope that there will thereby be a reduction in cost to the consumer, as by the hope that such a course will result in the disadvantage of the N. B. Power Co. It cannot be assumed that any considerable number of the intelligent and fair-minded citizens of St. John are desirous of intentionally being unfair to any enterprise or industry located in this city. We omit from this class a certain group whose personal antagonism leads them into an endeavor to have the city become a tool for the working out of their plans for private revenge. It is unfortunate that certain well-intentioned citizens are led away by this clamor, but we believe that it is only a matter of time when the underlying motives of these citizens will

assert itself and a more reasonable attitude assumed toward the Power Company. In this latter class we include some newspaper friends who have not had opportunity of learning the true facts in the case.

At the time the old Street Railway Company sold to the N. B. Power Company, they were able to do so under the provisions of their charter. The N. B. Power Company was equally legally able to buy, so with the full knowledge of all public regulating bodies, with the sanction of the Legislature, and law-makers; with the sanction of the Supreme Court, which had jurisdiction over certain parts of the transaction, and with the further sanction of the Legislature after the sale, the transaction was consummated. The new company's offer to the old was known to everyone and particularly to those who had been in the company since its formation and were less antagonistic to some individuals in the Power Company.

Buyers of the securities of the N. B. Power Company, knowing the above facts, invested their money in good faith in the Acts of our law-makers and legislators. The subsequent attacks on the Company in which an endeavor was made to make new laws and have them retroactive were only partially successful, due to the fairness of the Legislature, which not being a local body were not blinded to justice and reason by the campaign then carried on.

Since that date, 1920, the issuance of new bonds and the borrowing of money from the bank to the extent of some hundreds of thousands of dollars, has resulted in that amount of new money coming into the enterprise. The base of all credit, and the hope of our future as a city depends upon a spirit of justice and fairness to investors in our enterprises, whether these investors are citizens of St. John, or outsiders. If after a transaction has been completed in good faith, and investors have put their money in in good faith, as a city is to become parties to the tearing to pieces of that enterprise, then we have done an irreparable injury to the credit not only of the local enterprise but to the City of St. John itself.

MACDONALD'S FARM

Whether the Macdonald's Farm, so celebrated in song by Rotarians, on which the chickens, the ducks, the turkeys and the pigs flourished so contentedly, happens to be the farm of Alexander Macdonald, at Caledonia Mills, N. S., which has recently been brought so prominently into the limelight by means of the ghostly visitations which are said to have been manifested there, we cannot say. But on the off-chance that it should be one and the same farm, it occurs to us that it might be well for Rotarians to add another verse to their song. We suggest the following:

Old Macdonald had a farm,
E-I-E-I-O.
And on that farm he had a spook,
E-I-E-I-O.
With a tap-tap here, and a blue flame there,
Here a moan, there a moan and a goose flesh everywhere
Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.

The happenings at Macdonald's Farm, Caledonia Mills, during the past few weeks have attracted public attention in all parts of the country. They were the main source of chat in the neighborhood, particularly in view of the fact that the owner of the house and his family moved off the place, declaring that they would live there no longer. A detective and a newspaper reporter volunteered to investigate; they spent one night in the house, and what they saw and heard they declared cannot be attributed to natural causes.

The matter has now been taken in hand by Dr. Prince, an American scientist, who went into residence a few days ago, prepared with all the latest ghost-catching appliances known to science. With his advent, the manifestations appear to have ceased. Either the ghost has a strong objection to being "laid," or the agency which is responsible for the spectral manifestations does not care to take any chances of being caught. The more fact, however, that the occurrences should suddenly come as soon as measures were taken in real earnest to seek their cause, puts rather a suspicious aspect on the matter. The ghost, of course, may be a female, who with the natural bashfulness of her sex, does not care to appear to strangers in the rather light attire ghosts are usually credited with wearing; or it may be that the practical joker is abroad in the land. Anyway, the outcome of Dr. Prince's visit will be awaited with interest.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Britain and Egypt.
(London Daily Chronicle).
The British stipulations with regard to Egypt are simple. They are that the safety of Egypt against any foreign attack shall be assured; second, that all other foreign influence than our own shall be excluded from the Nile Valley. These stipulations arise from Egypt's unique strategic and international position. It is a nodal point in world relationships. It is the corridor connecting our whole Empire. Apart from these reservations, upon which the British Empire cannot afford to weaken, Egypt will find no hindrance or hesitation in obtaining as much sovereign independence as she desires. But first we must find someone of adequate authority on the Egyptian side to deal with.

Words That Breathe

(Los Angeles Times).
Language is the trumpet voice of the soul. Let children be taught of the simple words of the English tongue, and their efforts upon the speaker and the listener. Let the child be told that when he speaks a word he paints a picture upon his own and his hearer's mind that life to him will be good or evil, beautiful or ugly, happy or miserable, according to the pictures he paints. Such teaching would help to give the boy and girl a greater sense of responsibility.

Mr. Kennedy's Job

(Ottawa Citizen).
The Minister of Railways has the task of keeping the nationally owned system intact, as best he can, until the people in common get away from the belief that Canada is an impoverished country.

No More, Please.

(Vancouver Province).
The Vancouverites will be well advised to refrain from making one of their garbless parades in this province. We have had trouble enough over beer skins without being afflicted by a display of Russian hides.

The Searchlight Upon Our Railways.

(Ottawa Journal).
It is but a triten to say that the problem of our National Railways is the most difficult and vital question confronting the Canadian people. When the war engrossed our thought, and all else seemed subsidiary, steps were taken the magnitude of which was lost upon the public. Today, however, when the national mind is more normal, and when the day of reckoning is here, the great losses to the public treasury on public account compellingly challenge reflection.

It is with a desire to elucidate this problem, and thus aid in conclusions that will be fortified by reality and truth, that The Journal today publishes the first of a series of articles upon the railway question. It is a question of J. L. Macdonald, is peculiarly qualified for his task. A former controller of railway statistics, with a clear grasp of the realities of the situation, Mr. Macdonald is a man of facts, and his facts instead of his opinions; and none will read his articles without achieving a more complete knowledge of a subject about which ignorance is doing infinite harm.

The Journal sincerely trusts that these articles will be widely read. The time has come when discussion of our railways must be lifted beyond mere academic debate upon the respective merits of private and of public ownership. We must look realities in the face, must confront the facts, must judge of the merits of measures by the acid test of results.

It is not merely a question of efficient transportation, of cheap rates, or of the size of the deficit. It is a question of our national credit. When other countries begin to challenge our borrowing, as the Wall Street Journal has just challenged it, begin to ask for information about our railways, it is high time that we ourselves began to examine the facts.

Canadian Unionism.
(Mail and Empire).
The stand taken by Premier Taschereau of Quebec against dictation to Canadian labor unions from international headquarters is a laudable one. Canadian labor is popular in Quebec, where he denounced the striking printers, every member of the Legislature but one applauded. Following an attack on him because of the remarks, he now says:

"In the Province of Quebec, whenever an attempt is made from outside to direct our workmen in a course of aggressive war on industry, Premier Taschereau knows that labor unionism in Quebec is a small part of the provincial body, and that he can get more support than condemnation by challenging it."

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE
This afternoon I went a errand for me, being one out change from it, and on the way home I started to go past Mommy's Siminasee store and there was some sour balls in the window with a sign saying, While they last, 3 for a cent. My thinking, G. Ma, gives me this cent I'll buy 3, say G. by the time I go home and see if I can have the cent and then come back the sour balls mite not last that long, O, well, G. I guess I'll just take a chance.
And I went in and got 3 sour balls for the cent change, and when I got home I sed to ma, Hay ma, will you give me a cent if I tell you something?
If you have anything you want to tell me, tell me, I don't like these bribery methods, sed ma.
Meaning to tell her free of charge, and I sed, Well G. ma, go on, boley smokes, you awntent to discouridge ma wen im trying to find a honest way to make a cent.
O, dont be so ahsurd, sed ma, and I sed, Well, well will you, ma?
Will I wat? sed ma, and I sed, Will you give me a cent if I tell you something?
No certyen I wont, was nonsense, I'd rather give you a cent not to hear it, waterer it is, sed ma.
O, all rite ma, thate a bargain, now I wont even mention it any more, thanks, ma, sed.
And I quick ran out and sat on the front steps and sucked the 3 sour balls feeling honest.

THE LAUGH LINE

One advantage of a poor start is that it provides more to brag about after one succeeds.—Reading News-Times.
How It's Done.
"How long will you remain in this country?"
"About six weeks," said the foreign visitor.
"Will that give you time enough to gather material for a book about us?"
"I've already written the book."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

New Variety.
What is it, a white lunch, we ask to know?
Wanted—White lunch cook, good salary. 108 Clay street.—Baltimore Ad.
Fap From It.
It's all very well to bid the girls about the grotesqueness of their early morning appearance, but after all, a man in a bathrobe isn't a thing of beauty and a joy forever exactly.—Buffalo Express.

Decidedly So.
Hub—So our new neighbors are strict vegetarians.
Wife—Strict? Do you know, they won't even let their children eat animal crackers.—Boston Transcript.

Streetside Alibi.
Mistress—Bridget, I'm afraid you have broken your word.
Bridget (absent-mindedly)—"Shure, mum, it must have been the cat."

An Eye For a Tooth.
"What are you blinking for, Kiste?"
"Oh, George, you are so demondant. Blink is as vulgar a word as hash is. One doesn't blink one's own's lashes."—Harvard Lampoon.

His Temperature Hit The 112 Mark
Portland Man Suffers Malady That Is Puzzle to the Physicians.
Portland, March 11.—Physicians today are discussing the extraordinary experience of John Blasko, 34, a native of Poland who is alive after his temperature remained for four hours last night above 112 degrees, the highest recorded by the average clinical thermometer, then dropped to 95 or 96 or normal. A temperature above 105 is almost invariably fatal to adults they said.
Blasko was suffering from a malady which evaded diagnosis, though it was evident some sort of brain trouble caused his condition. Today his temperature had returned to normal, while his general condition was somewhat improved.

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Shipwrecked Men Arrive On Melita

Three Newfoundland Sailors, Only Surviving Members of Schr. Rafuse Tell Tale of Hardship.

The C. P. S. liner Melita arrived in port on Saturday evening, and docked at No. 3 and 5 berths at eight o'clock. She brought 348 cabin and 325 steerage passengers, and carried in the hold 1,477 tons of general cargo and 2,517 tons of Royal Mail. The liner had a pleasant trip across from Liverpool, the only rough weather being experienced when the steamer neared Melita. The passengers left for their destinations by special trains yesterday morning.

Among those to disembark from the Melita yesterday was James Philpott, Samuel Grant and Ambrose King, the only surviving members of the crew of the ill-fated Newfoundland schooner, Rafuse, which foundered in the Atlantic on Feb. 10 last. An interesting tale of the hardships which these men at sea was told by these men when they arrived in port on Saturday evening.

The schooner Rafuse, which is owned in St. John's, Newfoundland, left port in January with a cargo of fish for Portugal. Arriving there, she discharged cargo and put on a cargo of coal, and set sail for Newfoundland. When she started out on the return voyage, weather conditions were not so bad, and it was not until Feb. 10 that the vessel encountered any storms. She was about 800 miles from Newfoundland, when a strong gale sprang up, which developed into a storm which lasted with unabating fury for several days.

So strong was the wind and so mountainous were the seas that the rigging was absolutely stripped from the schooner, and the crew eventually sprang a leak. The crew, which consisted of the captain and five men, toiled incessantly at the pumps for two days, and were about to give up all hope of ever seeing land again when they sighted a ship, and by frantic signalling, managed to attract the attention of her lookout. The vessel, which proved to be the Newfoundland liner Terrier, bore to the vicinity of the ill-fated schooner, and sent off a lifeboat in charge of the first mate.

The lifeboat managed to reach the schooner, in spite of the heavy seas, and the six men were taken off. Then came the journey which proved the most disastrous of the whole affair. During the trip from the schooner to the Terrier, the lifeboat tumbled completely over three times, and the men were forced to cling desperately to the bottom until they could right it each time. When the boat overturned the second time, the captain and two of the crew of the schooner sank beneath the cold waters of the ocean and were never seen again. When the boat righted itself the last time it was very close to the steamer, and the mate of the Terrier, who was clinging to the side, had his thigh crushed between the two craft. So badly was he injured that he succumbed the following day.

The Terrier proceeded to Liverpool, where the remaining members of the crew of the Rafuse were taken care of until they had recovered from the effects of their harrowing experience. They eventually appeared before a board, and were then accorded such treatment as is meted out in such cases. The men were outfitted with clothing, and their transportation to Canada on the Melita provided for. Further than this the British officials refused to go. Although the men requested that they be provided with such pocket money as would suffice for their needs during the trip, they were refused, and the result was that they landed in St. John's with not a penny to their names. During the voyage smokes and other little comforts were provided for them by sympathetic passengers, who had learned their plight and had heard their story.

Archie Thomson's Body Recovered

Young Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Roydon Thomson Was Drowned at Oakville, Ont.

The body of little Archie Thomson, the young son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Roydon Thomson who was drowned at Oakville, Ont., where he was attending school, has been found. Mr. Thomson, receiving a wire to that effect yesterday, stating that the body had been found on the beach at Oakville, which is half way between Oakville and Hamilton.

Mr. Thomson's eldest son, Jack, is leaving Toronto tonight with the remains and will be met by his father in Montreal.

Private services will be held at St. Andrew's Church Tuesday afternoon. The unfortunate lad was believed to have been drowned while attempting to cross a creek which had become swollen by freshets, and that he was swept out into the waters of Lake Ontario. A reward was offered for the recovery of the body, but no word was found of it from the 23rd of February until Saturday afternoon.

STEAMER CORSICAN CONCERT PARTY

Excellent Programme of Musical and Comic Numbers
Delighted Audience at Seamen's Institute.

A varied programme of musical and comic numbers was given by the Corsican Concert party in the Seamen's Institute Saturday night. The comic numbers were over big, and the man-