

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1919.

RESTORING RUSSIA.

Bolshevism in Russia is on the defensive. After more than two years, during which time that entire empire has suffered such horrors as history has never before recorded, the forces of the present so-called government are facing defeat on all sides. During the past few weeks, as a result of co-operation between the Allies and the anti-Bolshevik armies, punishment has been inflicted on the Reds which has created consternation in the ranks of the Bolshevik rulers in Petrograd and elsewhere. In the north, on the Archangel front, Russian forces supported by the Allies have resumed their advance and in a number of engagements have killed, wounded and captured many of the enemy. With sufficient supplies and favorable weather conditions these troops are in a position to drive the Bolshevik murderers out of that entire territory. In the south the Crimean Peninsula has been cleared by General Denikin, who continues to advance along the Volga, driving all before him. And in Siberia Admiral Kolchak, now recognized as the supreme governor of all Russia, has met with far greater success than can be appreciated by the meagre despatches coming through. Perhaps even more important than these military advantages is the fact that the Allied governments, following the suggestion by General Denikin, have recognized Kolchak as leader of the all Russian party and have arranged for support to be given his forces. Apparently the utmost harmony exists between the two great leaders who up till quite recently have been acting independently of each other, and between Kolchak and the Allied powers. For the first time since Bolshevism obtained control there is unity of action in the opposition, leading to the belief that before very long results of a most important character may be anticipated. Indeed even now there are rumors of the evacuation of Petrograd by the Red element, of Lenin's desire to proclaim a dictatorship as a last resort and of a gradual awakening among the masses of the Russian people in various portions of the Empire against the brutalities inflicted by the revolutionary forces. Thus with German support withdrawn, with co-operation on the part of the Allies and with a gradual revision of feeling among the Russians themselves it is not unreasonable to anticipate that before long something resembling order may be restored in what most unfortunate country.

OUR ROAD POLICY.

The farmer who mortgages his property for all that it will carry and who with the proceeds puts a coat of paint on his veranda, a flower bed on his lawn and a fancy bathroom over the kitchen, but who fails to provide a cook stove, bed, or carpets for the floor, spends his money foolishly. The Minister of Public Works who hands out thousands of dollars on little stretches of main highway to be used by a few score of motorists and who ignores the hundreds of miles of byways over which the farmers of the province must haul their goods, is spending his money foolishly. It would be very nice to find our trunk roads kept in good condition, but the completion of patches two or three miles long on highways extending one hundred miles is not sufficient to justify the contention that these highways are fit for travel. Nor is it reasonable to allege that because of these few odd strips of durable paving the roads of the Province are being put in excellent condition. The people who have to use the roads know otherwise. The farmers hauling heavy loads from place to place, from their farms to the marketing centres, and who are only occasionally compelled to make use of the so-called trunk roads, realize the almost criminal neglect which is being displayed by the present Provincial Government in this most important work. We have had one mortgage after another placed on the credit of New Brunswick, transacted finance which burdens every man, woman and child in New Brunswick with additional taxation for as long as they live, and we have seen this money headed out to political friends in the shape of extravagant appropriations for repair work on roads which the majority of the people never use. Some of these days we will wake up to the fact that the credit of this province has become so involved that further borrowing will be rendered practically impossible because of the meagre security remaining. And for all, if the present rate of unnecessary expenditure is maintained, we will have nothing to show of value to the people.

WHERE DO THEY STAND?

There is very natural speculation among Liberal and Conservative Unionists as to the attitude of Messrs. Carvell and Elkin touching the situation which has arisen in the ranks of the Liberal party in St. John-Albert in view of the fact that these representatives, one the acknowledged leader of the Unionist party from

New Brunswick, the other a federal member from this constituency, are believed to be very favorably disposed toward Hon. Mr. Foster. It is a matter of more than mere curiosity to men to learn just what their sentiments may be. So far neither one has by his conduct offered evidence or anything other than a desire to support the party to which he is now attached, nor has there been any public intimation on the part of either—although there are rumors in the case of Mr. Carvell—or any indication to retire from Union and again become associated with Liberalism. Yet the fact that the Liberal newspapers which support these two men among others are also supporting the party opposed to them, creates a condition which, to say the least, somewhat puzzling and which is creating in the minds of a certain element an impression that there is something beneath it all which is deserving of explanation.

The people of St. John-Albert who elected Mr. Elkin and the Unionists of New Brunswick who support Mr. Carvell are entitled to know at the present juncture what the intentions of these representatives may be, and it is certainly in the interests of the men themselves that they make perfectly clear at the earliest possible moment their attitude toward the opposition now in process of reorganization. If Messrs. Carvell and Elkin intend to remain faithful to the policies of Union Government it will be decided to their advantage to say so clearly and definitely and thus relieve a situation which is fast becoming embarrassing to all. Failing such action they leave themselves open to a suspicion which while probably not in any way justifiable will nevertheless be a matter of regret.

PAYING FOR PAVING.

Commissioner Jones, who is to be in charge of the Water and Sewerage Department for the next nine months, is credited with the suggestion that whether permanent paving shall be paid for by abutments, from general assessment, or by bond issue. What's the use? We already have a Local Improvements Act under which abutments are expected to pay a portion of the cost of construction in front of their properties, which Act has proven a complete failure. Abutments will not pay, and rightly so, for the streets upon which paving has so far been suggested are those in common use by practically all residents of this city. And in view of the apparent indifference of City Hall towards carrying on anything like a systematic programme, it should not be expected that these owners of property will willingly meet the required expenditure. If we have in existence a definite policy under which certain work would be carried on yearly, then the situation might be different and there would be some justice in calling upon abutments to contribute, in the realization that eventually all would be expected to do their share.

The suggestion of paying for paving out of general assessment is equally absurd. There is no general assessment to pay from. Already our ordinary taxes are reasonably high and to add to the general assessment each year a sum sufficient to accomplish anything commensurate with the needs of this department, would have the effect of placing St. John in a very unfortunate position with respect to the rate of taxation. It is a generally accepted axiom that the works of a permanent nature may properly be spread over the lifetime of those works. In accordance with this, a bond issue is the reasonable solution of our annual problem and indeed will be found the only plan by which we may ever hope to carry on this necessary work.

The difficulty in the way of St. John is not so much in respect to the mode of payment as in securing at the head of affairs a man with sufficient energy and determination to do something in the way of actual work. Perhaps if Mr. Jones will suggest a plebiscite as to whether renewals of existing water mains—which renewals will not produce any increased revenues—should be paid from water assessments as in previous years, or provided for by additions to our capital debt, he may find a feeling in favor of the first named plan, and while he is at it he might just as well inquire the opinion of electors as to the advisability of replacing a water main, in which no leak has ever been discovered, merely because of the fact that it had been underground for a number of years.

MR. FOSTER REPUDIATED.

By a large majority the meeting of Liberals called by Premier Foster repudiated his leadership, and left the old line Liberals in control of the situation. While the meeting appeared to entertain very cordial feelings towards Mr. Foster personally, the opposition to his attempt to impose himself upon the party as a leader, and to set aside the election of the delegates to Ottawa chosen at the recent convention of duly elected

ward representatives, was pronounced and bitter. The discussion disclosed that there is a breach in the local Liberal party which is beyond any hope of healing before another election. Appeals for harmony and unity fell on deaf ears; neither side was prepared to propose a practical basis of compromise; and the question of leadership was fought to a finish in the full consciousness that the party in this constituency was committing suicide.

Mr. Foster has no reason to be proud of the result, and the reaction upon his prestige as leader of the Provincial party will be of a serious character. When the smoke of the conflict clears away his quite unnecessary intervention will be blamed for widening the breach in the Liberal ranks, and rendering high impossible any further efforts to reunite the party in this constituency. The burden of the complaints uttered at the meeting was that Mr. Foster desired to play the autocrat, and the Liberal party in this constituency has had a sufficiency of autocratic bosses. In failing to co-operate with the chairman of the local Liberal Association and the defeated candidates, who in accordance with the instructions of the National Committee had the right to call the local convention, Mr. Foster set himself in defiance to the local leaders of the old line Liberals and to the recognized procedure of the party; and the interpretation put upon his high-handed action by his own meeting was that he was more concerned to assert his authority than to promote unity and harmony within the party. With open eyes a majority decided that Mr. Foster's leadership, which he sought to impose upon them in a way that struck at the roots of their respect; and their right of self-government, was not worth the price of a vague prospect of victory. There is the rub. Mr. Foster will not be easily forgiven for recklessly wrecking the party in this constituency.

WHAT THEY SAY

Crisis Impends.

New York Times—That a crisis impends in our relations with Mexico is not to be doubted. Intervention may not, and should not, be necessary. It is devoutly to be wished that the Carranza government may come to its senses and, by displaying a capacity to settle the internal affairs of the country, avert resolute action by the United States in defense of its citizens in Mexico.

Poland's Resurrection.

New York Tribune—That a nation is more than a color on the map, or even a collection of individuals bound together by cultural affinities, is shown by the rebirth of Poland. The marvelous resurrection seems to support the mystical idea, tinged with romanticism, that a nation is living, breathing spirit which pursues its own life and enforces conformity to its traditions. Poland is a derivative of casual association.

No Fooling Here.

New York Sun—No way of knowing how much Mr. Wilson feels his audiences on the other side of the Atlantic when he tells them the American people are far from fooling behind him, or whether he fools them at all. But virtually every single bit of voting testimony that has been produced in the country since the election went to the polls in November, 1918, is proof positive that nowadays he doesn't do much fooling of anybody at the ballot boxes here at home.

Tempting Mexico.

Philadelphia Public Ledger—There is not a great deal to commend in the past handling of the Mexican situation by our own government. There have been far too many alterations of policy, firmness and aggression have been succeeded by "watchful waiting," we have undertaken tasks without persevering in their fulfillment, and it is not to be wondered at if Mexican officials have under-estimated our power or been tempted to stretch our patience too far.

Daring Suggestion.

Springfield Republican—It may appear daring to offer advice to a man who is now generally supposed never to accept such offerings, but our bit of common counsel to the President is to call off his speaking tour, seek a conference with the elder statesmen of the republican party and propose that they should pay for what they got and get what they paid for. Nature was maintained when Paul was boss, a responsible party organization did business on a straight commercial basis. So long as they applied to the people quarters and made satisfactory terms, it was recognized that they should pay for what they got and get what they paid for. Nature of persons in this service a fair sense of honor and a certain reserve were demanded for reasons of prudence.

Lemuel Ely Quigg.

New York World—There was no false pretense about Lemuel Ely Quigg as a party worker or professional lobbyist. He grew up under a system that has fallen into disfavor, and he held his faith in it after it became obsolete. Through the assistance of the corporations with politics he was maintained when Paul was boss, a responsible party organization did business on a straight commercial basis. So long as they applied to the people quarters and made satisfactory terms, it was recognized that they should pay for what they got and get what they paid for. Nature of persons in this service a fair sense of honor and a certain reserve were demanded for reasons of prudence.

A BIT OF FUN

There's a good thing about a dog; he does not pretend to be anything else.

A vegetarian says that his good health is the result of eating no meat and chewing it well.

Quite Possible.
One day a celebrated K. C. was arguing before a very fierce old judge, who interrupted by pointing

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

LANGWIDGE.

Langwidge is wat we tressure our chawts with and keep people from finding out wat we are really thinking. The langwidge you speak depends on wat country you was born in jest by luck without your consent. If a child born in France started to speak German its parents would look at it in surprise. Everybody thinks their own langwidge is the only one worth tawking and wen you see 2 forriners tawkin forrin together you wonder how they can understand each other. If it wasn't for langwidge you wouldn't know the names of things to call them by, and pointing would be much more polite on account of being much more necessary. If you didn't know any langwidge and you wanted to mention a cow you would haff to say Moo moo. If you wanted to mention a red cow you wouldn't hardly know wat to say. Several words in a strale row with a period on the end make a sentence, and several sentences sometimes make sents. Most books should start to be red at the beginning, but a dictionary can be started eny-where with equal pleasure.

Wen babies want sumthing they make sounds wich nobody cant understand except themselves, on they are sutch fevra sounds that the babies genrally get wat they want enyway. This proves that langwidge is more of a luxury than wat it is of a necessity. Wen a dog wants to tressure a thart very much he can bark and wag his tale at the same time, so if you dont understand him at one and you mite at the other.

first to one and then to the other of his ears, and saying: "You see this, Mr. X? Well, it just goes in here and comes out there," and the child, with the hilarity of a judge who thinks he has actually said a good thing. "I don't doubt it, my lord," replied the K. C., "What is there to prevent it?"

Yes, a woman should trust her husband, but it is not always advisable to let him know it.

He—"Do you think your father would consent to our marriage?" She—"He might. Father's very eccentric."

Clarice—"Kitty married a man a deal older than she is, so I hear."

Penelope—"Older? Why he's twice her real age, and three times the age she says she is!"

Teacher—"Johnny, if four men are working eleven hours a day—"

Modern Youth—"A moment, miss. None of those non-union problems, please!"

He Felt Guilty. Mrs. Pickett (startled)—I think that Darwin was right. Mr. Pickett (startled)—Great cats! What have I done now?

FRANCE IS FACING A DESPERATE ISSUE IN WAR FINANCES

Spent With Open Hand During Hostilities and Now Must Tax to Extreme in Order to Pay Her Debts.

Discussing the financial situation of France, the Paris correspondent of "The London Morning Post" says: "The new budget is creating a sensation throughout the country. Mr. Klotz's idea is to tax people on their expenditure, but it remains to be seen whether his proposals will not so hamper trade that a loss to the revenue will result from the new measures. As has been well said by a Frenchman, England is perfectly prepared to accept taxation, but will rise up in arms whenever her personal liberty is attacked. France, on the other hand, will accept all sorts of infringements on personal liberty, but are entirely recalcitrant so far as taxation is concerned. "If Mr. Klotz's proposals go through we are to have matches at two pence a box; we are to have a rain of fines for cost more and sugar, coffee, electricity, gas and tobacco are to be raised in price. "The Frenchman also is to realize the heaviest of the income tax system. From the fiscal standpoint, the income tax is perhaps one of the most interesting problems. When this tax was first introduced in 1915 it was a very mild order and its aim was primarily to establish a sort of census of income. "Protests of all sorts are heard as to the new taxation. People say that life is becoming absolutely impossible, and a good many talk of the possibility of clearing out to the hinterland, and re-starting life under conditions where the problems are simpler and more elementary. Proposals of this sort have hitherto neither been made nor taken too seriously, but I was surprised today to learn that a well known publicist had recently been persuaded only with difficulty from making such a step. This man who persuaded him remarked: "In view of the present situation I doubt very much whether I gave him sound advice."

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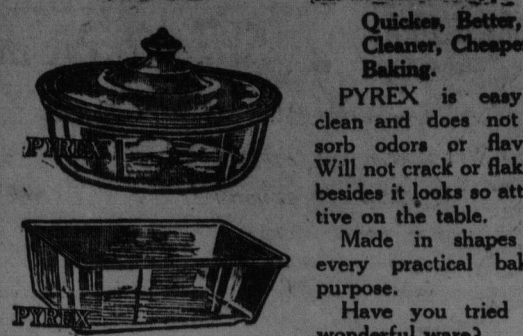
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