

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1920.

THE SUGAR SUPPLY.

The Board of Commerce may not have many friends, but it has performed one useful service at any rate. It has let some light in upon certain transactions in sugar that it is well should be shown up. The particular incident uncovered is probably typical of what is going on all over the country. Briefly, evidence given before the Board of Commerce showed that two carloads of sugar were sold by the retailers to a Montreal broker for less than twenty dollars a hundredweight. The latter sold it again to dealers in Quebec, who in turn disposed of it to another Montreal dealer. By this time it was sold to wholesalers in Ottawa, and by them to retailers at twenty-seven dollars a hundredweight. The retailers sold it to consumers at thirty cents a pound. In all, five dealers handled the stuff, and the combined profits of all added ten cents a pound to the original cost, before it reached the consumer. Is it any wonder that the public grumbles at the rising cost of this and other necessities? And it is said the worst is yet to come, as far as sugar is concerned at any rate.

People cannot afford to remain indifferent to the present condition of affairs. Coming at this time of year means, if true, a serious setback to the families' hopes of being able to anticipate the winter's paucity of supplies by laying in preserves and in other ways forestalling their high cost of living. Some other reason than the mere desire of interested parties should be found before such an essential item of the dietary as sugar is allowed to continue in its ascending scale. It is claimed that there is a shortage in the supply that is responsible for much of the great increase in prices, but in view of the evidence secured by the Board of Commerce it would appear that there are some factors bringing about this result other than any shortage. If there is any such shortage as it is claimed there is, it can be substantiated by proofs which can be vouched for by competent authorities. Many question whether the shortage is actual and not manufactured. Facts are accumulating in the United States which go to prove that there is no real shortage of sugar in that country, and therefore no legitimate reason for the exorbitant prices being charged there.

Some circumstances indicate to the Boston Transcript—and its evidence on this head is likely to appear in case now under judicial investigation—that a great quantity of crude sugar has gone into the refinery which has not come upon the market in due time as refined sugar. What becomes of it? The allegations of hoarding and speculation urgently demand thorough investigation. People have begun to suspect very strongly that they are being trifled with, or conspired against, in this connection; and it is wise that their minds be fully disabused of the apprehension, or else that the sugar be placed on the market at a price which will appear to the housewife to be more reasonable and more within her capacity to pay. That which the Boston paper says applies equally in Canada and if there be any dealers or manufacturers who have been forestalling the market, and turning actual abundance into the semblance of scarcity, they should be taught that the time is fast going by when that form of speculation at the public's expense can be tolerated.

FREEDOM, AS THEY HAVE IT IN THE U. S.

"Send the Statue of Liberty back to France. We are not free in any sense as intelligent white people interpret freedom."—The Chicago Tribune.

The foregoing is a pretty frank statement, but anyone who is at all conversant with conditions knows it to be true. It is not unusual to refer to America as "the land of the free"; but as a matter of fact the British Empire as at present constituted is the freest political organization on earth, that of the United States the most rigid. Our present Empire is the freest because there is no British Constitution, only a great body of law, tradition and precedent which marches with the changing conceptions of justice and equity. Even the French Republic, bound as it is by a fixed code, is, so to speak, looser at the top. The President of France has very little power, less even than the King of England. The President of the United States is all powerful. He is the last autocrat left among the western peoples. It is the irony of history that the country that fought so bitterly against what it considered tyranny should be left so far behind in the race for political freedom. George III. embodied a mild paternalism compared with the Caesarism to be found south of the line. Judged by British standards, the United States is not, politically speaking, a free nation at all. This may sound startling, but the Chicago newspaper seems to agree that such is the case. The government of the United States is an aristocratic republic and is governed by aristocrats to this day. It was intended to be an aristocratic republic; its founders knew what they

wanted, and fixed their ideas in the fundamental law.

We quote the following from a recent little brochure on the American constitution:

"The American constitution was finally ratified and became the organic law of the land in 1789, the year of the Revolution in France. The men who drew up this instrument were for the greater part the leaders of English county families. They had no particular love for the mob, and had a healthy dread of popular passions. All that subsequently transpired in France but increased their distrust of the unbridled popular will. They set to work to devise a constitution that should, so to speak, be mob-proof, and they succeeded. That constitution, after the lapse of more than a century, still stands. Probably no local instrument is held in such veneration by all classes of the population from the highest to the lowest, save the Declaration of Independence itself. Yet it called into being a system of government under which Britishers would stifle. It promises the unfettered expression of the political will and nullifies and defies it at every turn. It took quite sixteen years to demonstrate silver; in Canada it could have been accomplished in a week or earlier. After all the outworks have been carried, up to the President's capitulation, like a great bailey-lower, the Constitution may resist assault. Once a law is declared ultra vires of the Constitution, that ends the matter—a scrap of paper rules as never tyrant ruled on this earth. Here in Canada, and in the British Empire generally, we would not tolerate such a preposterous state of affairs for a single instant. We have the reality of political freedom; the Americans possess but the shadow. The founders of the Republic gave the popular chamber, the House of Representatives, the shortest life they dared, i. e., two years. They gave the Senate the longest life they could, i. e., six years, and they made the election indirect. (This has since been changed.) They took out of the hands of the popular representatives control over foreign affairs, and placed it partly with the Senate, partly with the President and his cabinet. Foreign affairs in the United States is a game of blind man's bluff. The President may initiate a treaty through his Secretary of State; the other high contracting party or parties may sign and seal, and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations may quietly strangle it to death. This has become such a common occurrence that we cease to marvel at it. It is, of course, a travesty of government. But to proceed. After a law has been passed by the House, concurred in by the Senate, and signed by the President, there remains the Supreme Court—inalienable, Olympian, final—which may, all in a day's work, declare it unconstitutional. Talk about might making right! No wonder intelligent foreigners are perplexed! To the common people of Europe at this hour the United States is the darkest mystery of all."

Put shortly, the British Constitution represents the will of a growing race. It has no fixed and definite boundaries; it enlarges with every newly enacted law. Our courts exist not to decide if a law is constitutional or not, but to interpret the will of Parliament, the supreme law-making body. With us the House of Commons makes the laws; the courts simply exist to apply the law to particular cases as they arise. In the United States, on the contrary, the Constitution is practically unchangeable, and the Supreme Court is superior to the law-making bodies and to the supreme ruler. One is an Indian rubber band, the other a ring of chilled steel. One can imagine how much freedom can be enjoyed under such a ring.

WOMEN AND SMOKING.

It is an admitted fact, as practically all tobaccoists will allow, that quite as many, if not more, cigarettes are sold to women as to men. This is the case not only in this country but in most others. We gather from an English exchange that the recent rise in the price of tobacco is due to a considerable extent to the greatly increased demand by women upon an already limited supply. To complain in this regard seems to be rather unreasonable, having regard to the fact that the origin of smoking amongst women and girls is due to their yielding to the temptation of men. Will any man deny that it was their male companions who persuaded the hapless maidens of former years to be "sporty"? Did they not always show amusement and undisguised admiration at the ways of a maid with the cigarette? Coquetry, sheer and simple, was the original naïve aim of the feminine cigarette smoker. Other women later followed suit, in order to appear "sporty" and "pally"; these were those of less feminine charm. A few intellectuals then considered it a sign of emancipation, and conducive to mental labor; and several elderly ladies were advised to smoke to soothe their nerves. Many other women took it up from curiosity, and also, of course, to be in the fashion. Now it is a common habit, and with many women it has degenerated into a vice. More coquetry has become unpleasant over-indulgence. Logically there is no reason why women (any more than men) should not smoke in reason. It is the lack of reason that causes antagonism.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Apologies of Thrift?
 (Western Independent, Calgary.)
 It is not rather strange that the apostles of "thrift" are invariably men and women of the leisure class, who if they were called upon to live for a week on what the average worker earns in a month, would think themselves martyrs. The governments and those who control them have been preaching thrift for five years to a people who are on the verge of want, largely because of the greed, laziness and extravagance of these very people who shout thrift from private cars and sumptuous banquet halls.

Corporation Control.
 (Farmers' Sun, Toronto.)
 In Ottawa a considerable number of the cabinet will surely be among the favored granting state aid to Grant Morden's huge steel, coal and shipping merger. The Canadian people object most strenuously to any further subsidizing or housing of these industries. Every one of the concerns going into the Grant Morden merger is already overcapitalized and overwatered, yet Grant Morden promises shareholders dividends from the outset. The concern has practical monopoly of the steel, coal, shipping and the shipbuilding industry of the country. Some day Canada will realize that it is extremely dangerous to let such tremendous power, financial or industrial, into the hands of a small group of men. This country is the most corporate controlled of any in the world.

British Speakers.
 (Manchester Guardian.)
 It seems likely that a Speaker, with the reform of the house of commons and the devolution plan largely to his credit, will take a place among constructive statesmen of which few of the speakers have attained, eminent as have been their talents in many directions. There are a few exceptions, no doubt. Harley, Lord Oxford, has been remembered rather as distinguished occupant of the chair than as a speaker. There are a few exceptions, no doubt. Harley, Lord Oxford, has been remembered rather as distinguished occupant of the chair than as a speaker. There are a few exceptions, no doubt. Harley, Lord Oxford, has been remembered rather as distinguished occupant of the chair than as a speaker.

A BIT OF VERSE

ENGLAND COMES.

It is not that the flow's more sweetly there
 With comelier hue in quaint old gardens through,
 Nor that the loughlight April dusk with song
 Brews a livelier April dusk with song.

It is not that the hedges and bees,
 The bourgeoisie verdure of a softer spring,
 Or grateful whispering winds in
 Greener trees
 By three-mo-magic brooks ablooming—
 It is not these that thrill me, nor
 grey walls,
 With state-derived grace as years unfold,
 Nor battlemented castles, nor great
 Hold back the tyrant from their
 cherished homes.
 The fire of England's anger kindles
 yet;
 Still rings the age-old answer:
 "England comes."
 —George H. Maitland.

THE LAUGH LINE

Painful, indeed.
 "There was a painful courtship."
 "Yes."
 "He is a dentist, and met her first as a patient."

The Reason.
 Bank Client—"Hallo! What's become of the old cashier?"
 New Cashier—"He's gone away."
 Client—"For a rest?"
 New Cashier—"No; to avoid arrest."

His Opinion.
 "What do you think of a man who constantly deceives his wife?"
 "Think of him! I think he's a wonder."

In Spring.
 In spring when bluebirds sing
 At windows where they know
 Some one will love to have them
 wing
 And pour their melodies—
 It is like life at best,
 Whose windows face the seas
 Waiting for the bluebird love, whose
 breast
 is full of harmonies.

Revenge is Sweet.
 "Yes," proudly announced the ex-captain, who is manager of a new seaside hotel, "all our employees are former soldiers, every one of them. The reception clerk is an old infantryman. The waiters have all been non-coms, the chef was a mess-sergeant, the house-doctor was a base hospital surgeon, the house-detective was an intelligence man; even the pages were cadets."

"And have you any former military police?"
 "Yes," he replied joyously. "When there's a good stiff wind blowing, we set them to clean the outside of the windows on the eighth floor!"

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PARK

Ma was reading the junk page in the setting room after supper yesterday and pop was winking up and down smoking, and I went in, saying, G. ma, G. pop, you awi to see all the powder Gladdie is putting on her face up in her room. G. pop, G. ma, you mite think she was so bimz she had to put enuff on to last for a week.

Confound it, I wish that girl wouldn't do herself up like a sack of flour, sed pop.

Now, Willyum, girls will be girls, sed ma.

No they won't, they'll be snow noses, sed pop.

Which just then Gladdie looked in the door with her hat on and her face all white instead of fack color, on account of all the powder, saying, I'm going now, fackes.

Grate hevins, Gladdie, are you ill, I never saw you so pale, wat on erth is the matter with you, Gladdie? sed pop, you better not go out feeling that way.

Wat way? sed Gladdie, I never felt better.

Nonse, you're as pale as a sheet, you really must be sick, you're positively gassy, I'll leave it to Benny if you're not, sed pop, and I sed, Gosh, Gladdie, you certainly are pale looking, you better get away from the stairs there in case you faint or sum-thing.

How absolutely ridiculous, I feel perfectly well, sed Gladdie, and she sed, Gladdie, don't be foolish, don't you see they mean the powder on your face?

Impossible, sed pop, powder could never make her look so sick, she must be ill, she awi to be in bed, and I sed, Are you sure you aint got a pane in the big toe or sumware, Gladdie?

O keep quiet, both of you, sed Gladdie. And she quick went down stairs wiping her face with her handkerchief on the way.

ARMENIA ASKING

AID, NOT MANDATE

While Acceptance of Latter Welcome, Financial Help is a Necessity.

Washington, June 8.—Armenia's salvation lies not in mandate, the refusal of which by the United States Senate was "to be regretted, but expected," but in a military force of its own countrymen, in the opinion of General Gregory Torosian, now in Washington. General Torosian, as chief of the Armenian forces, on January 31, 1918, proclaimed at Erzerum the independence of Armenia.

The defeat of the Hittite proposal that the United States lend material and financial aid to Armenia is regarded by General Torosian as the heaviest blow to the future of the country. It is his belief that Armenia's immediate needs are such that assistance must be given from some outside source.

"I was present in the Senate during the discussion of the Armenian mandate," said General Torosian in an interview with a Public Ledger representative. "The refusal of the American mandate over Armenia did not in any way surprise me. Personally, I have never been partial to any foreign mandate over Armenia."

"If Armenia is unhappy today it is not the fault of this government, the Senate nor the generous American people. The whole responsibility lies with the National Armenian delegation at Paris and especially with its president, Bogos Milar, who for five years has systematically neglected every opportunity which was offered to organize a military force for Armenia."

MANCHESTER DIVISION SUCCESSFULLY FLOATED
 Quebec, June 8.—The steamer Manchester Division of the Canadian Line, which has been ashore at the mouth of the St. Charles River since yesterday morning, was successfully floated this morning and is expected to be slightly damaged.

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STATE FORESTS MAY

AID PULP SHORTAGE

May Plant Poplar Trees to Supply Wood for Pulp.

(Public Ledger Bureau.)

Harrisburg, June 8.—The Pennsylvania Department of Forestry believes that the state forests can be made to help out in the shortage of pulpwood.

Because of the increasing shortage of pulpwood, from which newspaper paper is made, the department has begun an investigation into the possibilities of growing North Carolina poplar trees.

Several attempts to grow these poplars for pulp purposes have proved unsuccessful, but Clifford Pinchot, chief forester, believes that plantations of the trees can be established on a commercially paying basis. John M. Keller, chief of the Bureau of Agriculture, has been detailed to conduct the inquiry.

Mr. Keller has just returned from an inspection of a twenty-two-year-old plantation of poplars planted near Tyrone by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co. Trees ten and twelve feet in height were planted ten feet apart on rocky hillside ground, and the plantation has already been regarded as a failure. It grew slowly and was attacked by oyster-shell scale and borers.

If smaller trees are planted and closer and on better soil, Mr. Keller says satisfactory results can be obtained.

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