The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1922.

CONDITIONS IN IRELAND.

Mail and Empire: "It is impossible for loyal Canadians to see "without misgiving and sorrow "the seething caldron of troubles "to which Ireland has been reduced by Mr. Lloyd George's "policy. It has often been said by "those who know Ireland, not "on theory or by hearsay merely, "but by personal experience, " 'England's Irish troubles will " 'only begin with the granting of " 'some measure of Home Rule,' "and the prediction would seem "to be verified."

The foregoing will, we imagine, be regarded by most readers as a most extraordinary statement to make, and surprise will surely be expressed that a newspaper of the standing of the Mail and Empire should ever make it. The complaint has always been that it was the withholding of Home Rule that was the cause of most of the trouble in Ireland, and it was in the hope that something like peace and order would be restored that prompted Mr. Gladstone to bring in his Home Rule proposals. Lloyd George has merely carried out plans that Gladstone was not able to carry out. Are conditions any worse today than they were for months before the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 was passed? Why blame Lloyd George for conditions which he certainly did not create, but only did his best to remedy? He had the choice of taking the course he did, or adopting once again Cromwell's policy of suppression. Would matters have turned out any better, does any one suppose had he taken the latter course?

Again the Mail and Empire says:

"In 1906, Ireland was prosper-
"ous, peaceful and contented as
"never before in all her history.
"The fires of religious rancour had
"in a great measure died down
"and Protestant and Roman
"Catholic lived together more
"amicably than at any previous
"period within living memory."

Even so, but what disturbed this peaceful condition of affairs? Not any policy of Lloyd George's. The sole responsibility rests with a small band of agitators directed from America and kept going by American funds. But for this element, the prosperity, peace and contentment which the Mail and Empire declares existed, might have continued.

The plague spot of Ireland at the present time is not Dublin Castle, nor the British Government, but De Valera and his followers. It is they who are harrassing Ireland, it is they who are responsible for the troubles with Ulster, which may precipitate a civil war and it is they who are making it difficult for the new government to restore law and order and bring the happiness and prosperity which is their right, to the people of the sorely beset island.

De Valera has neither right, logic, nor reason to support him in his attempts to wreck the Irish Free State. If he had maintained his present attitude from the outset, he might have been given the credit of fighting for a principle; and been respected for it, even though he was mistaken.

But the man is not sincere even. His present actions are wholly inconsistent with his procedure in the past. He blatantly announces that he is fighting for an Irish republic, wholly divorced from any suzerainty of Great Britain, and that he will not rest until that objective has been attained. This is a beautiful ideal, possibly, and many Irishmen will look upon it as the ultimate aim of that people. But De Valera cut loose from the republic idea when he agreed to the proposition of Lloyd George for a conference. It was made an express condition of that conference that no violation of the integrity of the Empire was to be considered and to that the Sinn Fein chief assented.

Then when Griffith and Collins brought back the pact which had been agreed to at Downing Street and De Valera fought it, the alternative proposition that he submitted did not contemplate a republic.

It was only when a majority of the Sinn Fein Parliament ratified the agreement, and Griffith and Collins and their associates were entrusted with the responsibility for the establishment of the proposed new government, that De Valera began his republic or-nothing agitation.

There can be but one of two conclusions: Either the man is dishonest or he is blood-frenzied. Either he is stirring up the turmoil which has lately developed in Ireland with a view to his own political advancement and possible enrichment from contributions for which he may expect the United States may once again be tapped, or the strife and bloodshed, in which he has been immersed during the last half dozen years have set fire to his never too steady brain and rendered him irresponsible.

As to the ultimate result there is yet no reason for despair. The friends of Ireland and the friends of peace might have hoped that the ratification of the Downing Street pact would prove the sun which was to dissipate the clouds which have hung low and dark over the hapless island. But reason would hardly lend support to that hope. Back of De Valera and back of the lawless and ignorant who call him chief, is the demoralization for which centuries of strife have been responsible in Ireland. Law, order, morale could not be restored by a few strokes of a pen. Ireland has yet a hard battle before it, but the struggle is of its own people with themselves. In the end it will win that battle.

A NEW STANDARD OF VALUE.

Too many peeresses and not enough space to put them in at Princess Mary's wedding have occasioned a problem which the Winnipeg Tribune appears to think has been giving His Grace the Duke of Atholl very grave concern.

His method of approaching this problem—he cannot be said to have solved it—is, if it is as reported, a wonderful mixture of profound humor and robust simplicity. He is said to have gone to Westminster Abbey clad in his kilt, the most voluminous garment known to the sartorial art, and to have discovered that his person could be accommodated in 16 inches of seating space.

This adoption of the Highlander's kilt as the standard of value and measure of exchange of the robes of a peeress makes the gold standard, the bushel measure, and all other known standards of weight and measure sink into insignificance as mere airy persiflage in dealing with real material substances.

A kilt cannot be admitted to be adequate for the purpose. It is true that it absorbs an incredible number of yards of cloth. Unpicked and extended it as nearly as possible satisfies the geometrician's idea of length without depth. Not in these modern days would this render it unsuited as a standard for ladies' garments, but the kilt is possibly the supreme instance of compression in the sartorial art, while, in the robes of a peeress it is expansion which is cultivated.

We all know how comparatively little space a bolt of cloth occupies on the shelf of a store. We all have seen the salesman with an expert turn of one wrist spin the bolt in the reverse upon the counter, and with an equally expert turn of the other wrist flounce the portion he has released into a dazzling expanse which, to the eyes of the customer, seems not only to occupy all the available space on the counter, but the whole store itself.

If the peeresses could be rolled up like bolts of cloth, or baled like hay, quite a number of them could be stowed away in a very small space indeed. It is just because they cannot be kilted up in this fashion that these tears are shed. To the mere outsider it would seem that the appropriate action for the peeresses to take would be to attend the wedding in kilts. For once, at least, the reporters would not be merely banal in describing the function as unique. This would be a fitting rebuke to the Duke of Atholl and be more dignified than an acrimonious discussion about the average width of a peeress which is beside the point and almost indecorous when it is the robes that are in question.

The Times: "The Standard, "with that degree of fairness "which marks its career as a "newspaper, published the Ross "report but ignored the replies of "the other engineers."

The Standard published the Ross report because a copy of it was handed to us. The replies of "the other engineers" were not sent to us, and we could not therefore very well publish something we never saw. Next please.

In place of the old-fashioned girl who used to make her young man leave off smoking to prove that he loved her, we now have the bright young thing who expects a cigarette case as a Christmas present.

Convincing evidence of Mr. Balfour's Americanization, after three months in Washington, is that he has gone home saying "Sure"—to the horror of his English friends.

Almost every kind of tax has been proposed, but we can't recall that anyone has suggested licensing tag day promoters, and different kinds of "reelin"

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Entente Will Win Through.

(Dondon Daily Chronicle.)

What smoothed the days of the Entente before the war was the common dread of German aggression in both countries. What has weakened it since has been the removal of that dread, followed by the inevitable crop of post-war hardships, perplexities and entanglements. The case for the Supreme Council method is not that it has achieved perfection in Anglo-French relations, but that in a situation of utterly unparalleled difficulty it has at least averted utter shipwreck, where probably no other method could have. With patience and fair discrimination on all sides we believe that we shall yet come through.

Universal Truths.

(Australasian.)

Australia, still on the threshold of nationhood, has incurred a huge war debt, in addition to outstanding loans. When the people of Australia borrow millions these are not received as sovereigns and bank-notes. They are obtained as goods for consumption, or represent credits for goods. And these millions of loan moneys must be repaid in goods, whether such be raw material or manufactures. The immediate need is for increased production, for it is clear that the sooner the the means to pay are provided the sooner will outstanding liabilities be discharged. The only way by which production can be increased is by working to increase it.

Different Viewpoints.

(London Daily News.)

The point of view now generally held by the people of Great Britain is that neither security nor reparations can be obtained by making impossible demands upon Germany and threatening her with destruction if she defaults. When popular opinion in France takes the same view, and is reflected in the policy of her statesmen, agreement should be easy. Even as it stands, however, we should have thought a promise by Great Britain to come to the defence of France with all the resources at command, if she is attacked, deserved a better term than "eyewash." France, it seems, would like us to come to her support when she herself attacks. That is a guarantee we shall never give.

Putting Off Genoa.

(Providence Journal.)

The wisdom of careful preparation of a conference programme is therefore apparent. As matters stand, the British and French are now far apart on what shall and what shall not be discussed at Genoa. The Germans are hopeful that they will remain apart. The Russian Reds, for a wonder, are saying little, but it is not doubted that they are thinking hard. For France and Great Britain to continue to disagree and to go to Genoa without any concerted plan of procedure would simply mean the magnifying of dangers already forecast and the precipitation of discussions that might either get nowhere or even further postpone the economic and financial rehabilitation of Europe.

Horse Versus Gas on the Farm.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer)

With conditions as they now exist, there is probably an acreage limit below which the use of tractors is not economical; that is to say, the proprietor of a small farm cannot afford as yet to "scrap" his horses and buy tractors. With the gradual return of normal conditions and the cheapening of tractors, particularly if the tax layers keep hands off, one may assume that this acreage limitation will be reduced. All in all, while the horse may mourn the glory that was his he need not fear early extinction. The most efficient agent will win finally. Sentiment has nothing to do with it. If the tractor can plow and haul more economically than the horse it wins. To prove that it can is the tractor makers' job

The End of the British Music Hall.

(London Daily Mail.)

Women have transformed the music-hall by their presence and the music-hall has no longer the atmsophere of a smoking-concert, but of a "show." A "sing-song" has been turned into a spectacle. Many of the bad jokes have disappeared, but no good jokes have come in to take their place. Even if they had, they would not have been wanted. The old-fashioned music-hall audiences preferred bad jokes that they could recognize to good jokes that would only have puzzled them. Women, unfortunately, have as little patience with old jokes as with old clothes. They have certainly compelled the music-hall to throw away its battered top-hat and its broken umbrella, and to dress itself up as if for a "social meeting." That is the true account of the death of the music-hall. It died of domesticity.

Back to the Two Party System.

(London Morning Post.)

Lord Grey affirmed that he has returned to politics because "since the last election there has been a House of Commons which has allowed any apparent scandal, however great, to remain unexposed, any policy, however extravagant, to go unchecked, any inconsistency, however flagrant, to take place without calling the Government to account . . . the most vital need of the moment is that the Coalition should go, and that we should get back to those healthy, straightforward, wholesome, hearty politics without which this country will never have a consistent, safe, and sound policy. In other words, the two-party system of Government and Opposition, under which England has succeeded in flourishing in the past, and under which, we doubt not, she will flourish in the future, has returned. So much the better. It matters little which party is in power if it is checked, criticized, and, if need be, supported, by a powerful Opposition.

Skin Tortured Babies Sleep
Mothers Rest
After Cuticura

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and pop was in the setting room after suppir, me thinking about doing my homework and pop smoaking and reeding the sporting page, and the door bell rang and I ran down to open it to take my mind off my lessins, and it was some man with a brown derby hat, saying, Id like to speek to Mr. Potts.

He's up in the setting room, I sed, and he sed, Well, if it's good enuff up there for him its good enuff for me. And he came up in the setting room and looked at pop, saying, Mr. Potts?

The same, sed pop, and the man sed, Mr. Lewis sent me over to see you, and pop sed, O, Mr. Lewis, yes, yes, and the man sed, Mr. Lewis thawt you mite be intristed in a case or 2 of the reel stuff at a very reasonable figure, you mite even say dert cheap, of corse you cant depend on most of the stuff thats floating erround nowadays at ixorbitant prices but I can assure you I ony handle the reel genuine bonny fidey artice and you can take my werd fo it.

Certeny, I woudent think of doubting your werd, youve got to take peoples werd for that sort of thing jest now or you'd never get enything, I realize that perfectly, its a case of give and take and maybe we can tawk bizniss if youre sure its genuine wiskey, sed pop.

Wich jest then ma came in, saying, Wiskey, wy Willyum, I hope and prey youre not thinking of taking a chance on eny strange wiskey with all this wood alcohall in the papers, and pop sed. Certeny not, thats wat I was jest about to say, how am I to know wat the stuff is made of, a wiskey label is ony a meer scrap of paper nowadays, Im sorry, but I dont think theres enything doing, and ma sed, I should say not. And she went out agen, and the man sed, Its a grand little proposition, perhaps you'd like to tawk it over at your office some time, and pop sed, No, absilootly no, Ive made up my mind, you can take one of my bizniss cards but its absilootly no use.

I understand, sed the man. And he took pops card and put it in his pockit and put on his brown derby hat and went, and I sed, Well G, pop, sippose he comes down to the office?

I never thawt of that, sed pop.

Wich maybe he dident.

THE LAUGH LINE

Pardonable Mistake.

"Constable! You allow me to be assaulted and robbed in broad daylight?"

"Great Scott, sir, I thought you were doing it for the pictures!"

The Right Hand.

Assistant—Here are a couple of divorces in the most exclusive circles. How shall I head the story?

Editor—Say "Cream of Society Goes Through the Separator." — Boston Transcript.

No Hurry.

"Did you telephone the plumber that the hot water pipes are leaking?"

"Yes, my dear."

"What did he say?"

"He said he'd put us on his waiting list."—New York Sun.

Elusive Happiness.

"Anticipation is better than realization."

"Yes; tomorrow is always the happiest day in a man's life."—London Answers.

It Had Slipped Her Mind a Moment.

The famous musician was bowing to the select audience in his hostess' newly acquired palatial home when she came, rustling up to him with the inquiry:

"What was that lovely selection you played just now?"

"That was an improvisation, madam," he replied.

"Oh, yes," she murmured; "I remember it now. It's an old favorite of mine, but the name of it slipped my mind for a moment."

Resemblance Noticed.

Mrs. Beame was admiring Mrs. Deare's baby.

"Oh, what a darling!"

"Da-da! Goo-goo! Ho-o! Da!" replied the baby.

"The dear," exclaimed Mrs. Beame. "He's trying so hard to talk!"

"Yes; he talks that way all day, but he doesn't say anything," ventured Bobbie, the five-year-old brother of the baby.

"The baby is so much like his father," Mrs. Deare commented—apropos of nothing, of course.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Old shirts worn by Woodrow Wilson, Henry Ford and others, made into aprons, sold at high prices at Albany, Georgia, the other day. Less exalted personages are compelled to see theirs revert to scrub cloths or reserved for the rag man.

Time takes the "S" from sword and makes it word—the modern weapon.

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TO HON. MINI

Besides Being Testimonial of
Mr. Lapointe It Was Also
of Premier King's Victory
ed Political Situation from

Quebec, Feb. 21.—Fellow citizens and cabinet colleagues tendered Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Marine, a banquet at the Chateau Frontenac here tonight. The speakers beside the guest of the evening, were Federal Prime Minister, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King; Hon. Jacques Bureau, Minister of Customs and Excise; Hon. Dr. Beland, Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and Premier Taschereau, of Quebec.

The banquet, besides being a testimony of admiration and respect for Mr. Lapointe, was also a celebration of the victory of Premier King and party in the recent Federal elections.

Quebec, Feb. 21—Premier Mackenzie King declared the occasion was one of exceptional rejoicing to the Liberals of all Canada, for they were celebrating the victory of Dec. 6 and especially the part played by the Liberals of Quebec Province in achieving that victory. They were there to affirm their resolve to take up the work of Government in Canada where Laurier left it in 1911, forgetting the differences and divisions and remembering only the heroisms and the sacrifices of the intervening period, to strive in the spirit of his example, with enmity towards none and good-will towards all to restore the days of a prosperous, contented and united Canada. In Mr. Lapointe, Quebec East had a worthy successor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. If they excepted a few die-hards and irreconcilables, that occasion was one for rejoicing for all Canada, for if there was one thing above another of which the people had had enough, it was the late administration. It could not be said that the extermination was the act of a single Province. In six out of nine of the Provinces the parliamentary following of the late Prime Minister was obliterated as completely as in the Province of Quebec. This should silence forever the sinister imputation that with Quebec the motive was one of revenue. If revenge was the mottive of Quebec, so also must it be the actuating motive in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It was not revenge, it was the restitution of political rights that was sought at the polls. If political contests ever afforded an example of a nation, by constitutional means, divesting itself of a yoke, unconstitutionally imposed by unconstituted rulers, it was the result as recorded on that day.

Exposed Pretense.

The election itself was the unmasking of a vast pretense. It was obvious the country had a right to expect from the new administration the restoration of those rights which, in recent years, the people had felt themselves denied. This meant a return to representative and responsible Government in spirit as well as in name. He placed above all else the supremacy of Parliament and the recognition of the cabinet as a committee of Parliament, responsible to Parliament and through Parliament to the people. The House of Commons, recently dissolved, was a selected rather than an elected body, and on the Government side it had the most subservient following that had ever assembled in a Federal Parliament. Whenever it was not occupied in considering amendments to hastily and ill-devised legislation of previous sessions, it was being employed night and day in hurrying through, with as little opportunity of discussion as possible, measures of far-reaching importance and appropriations of public monies running into hundreds of millions of dollars. It was due to this cause, more

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