

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1921.

## MR. KING'S DILEMMA.

That the Progressive trust refused to rise to the Coalition fly so skillfully cast for them by Mr. Mackenzie King is no fault of that gentleman's. He offered them the most tempting looking bait he possessed, but while the fish do not admire his efforts, they declined to bite. As a consequence they are still at large and can reach out for some other fly more to their liking. But shortly, they refuse to be caught.

It is perhaps as well for Mr. King that the Progressive party will have no formal alliance with him, because there is no knowing how soon a breach would have come. It takes a pretty clever man to drive two horses at the same time unless they are yoked together, and any attempt to yoke up the Quebec manufacturers and the Western farmers is foredoomed to failure, because one faction is going to pull one way and the other the opposite one. Mr. King could no more control this ill-assorted team than he can make the Sun stand still. Quebec having given Mr. King his majority and having swung behind him a solid sixty-five seats not in naturally expects to be the leading factor in any arrangements he may make. That this sort of thing is permitted is likely to prove somewhat of a millstone round his neck. Mr. King is particularly well aware, hence his turning to the Progressive leaders in an effort to make himself independent of Quebec. It can't be done, however.

There is no sympathy due Mr. King in his predicament. He is repaying what he has sown. He played through-out the whole campaign a two-faced part. His election was a triumph for chicanery and duplicity. He well knew the outrageous character of the election appeals which were being made by his candidates in the Province of Quebec. He took no steps to prevent them and profited by them. His party appealed on the ground of Protection in Ontario and the Liberal platform of 1919 in the West, free trade on the Prairies and protection for fruit in British Columbia, a duty on coal in Nova Scotia and a lower cost of the necessities of life in Ontario, anti-public ownership in Quebec and public ownership in the rest of Canada, free agricultural implements in Western Canada and higher duties in Ontario, and so down the list.

Mr. King must have felt that he needed the Progressive's support pretty badly when he agreed at their behest to shut out Sir Lomer Gouin, Mr. Lemieux and several prominent Liberals from his council. It is little wonder that such a concession should anger to the Quebec group. Now, however, that the Progressive party has refused to align themselves with Mr. King, he will have to form his Government from the material available in his own party. That some of the prominent members of it, notably the leaders of the Protectionist wing, are far from pleased at the course Mr. King took in parlaying with the Western Free Traders, can be very readily understood.

The attitude that the Progressives propose to adopt towards Mr. King's government is, it is said, to be one of "benevolent neutrality." The last state of a man who depends upon such a condition as that for his continued political existence is likely to be worse than the first. Mr. King has during the last week or two been the recipient of much congratulation. He's very ably appreciated sympathy very much more.

## THE SUBMARINE.

Great Britain's offer, made through Lord Lee, the First Lord of the Admiralty, to scrap the entire British submarine fleet, goes further towards the cause of real world peace than any member of the Washington Conference probably ever expected any nation to go. It is at least a far-reaching and unqualified expression of Britain's hope for peace, and as Lord Lee said, "a greater contribution to the cause of humanity than the limitation of capital ships." If Secretary Hughes is as sincere in his desire to secure practical world peace as he professes to be, he should lose no time in undertaking on behalf of the United States, to take the same course as Britain offers. If these two nations agree on this course, France and Japan can scarcely help following suit.

There is not a single argument that can be put up and successfully maintained in favor of the use of submarines in warfare. As an effective, legitimate fighting weapon the submarine proved a failure in the war. Its only value was in its attacks on unarmed and unprotected merchant ships. Not a transport with troops was lost from the German submarines, but they sank 12,000,000 tons of ship-

ping and drowned 30,000 non-combatants. Secretary Hughes' proposals regarding submarines allow for Britain and the United States maintaining 9,000 tons, and Japan 54,000. If these proposals are to be adopted the Conference will have failed in its main object. If the capital ship alone is limited and the ratio of submarines actually increased, which is the present proposal, while money will have been saved to the world, little will have been done toward preventing the waging of war with all its worst abominations.

Public opinion in the United States is strongly for world peace. It is to be hoped that this sentiment will find expression at Washington and that the whole weight of influence of the republic will be thrown behind the British offer.

## GOOD ADVICE.

The Clare County Council's resolution on the Anglo-Irish treaty embodies perhaps the best as well as the most compact statement of the issue as it is presented to the Irish people.

Rejection of the treaty would be almost certain to involve us in a war of annihilation, because our people will be divided, and because world opinion, instead of being with us, as at present, will be against us.

Mr. De Valera ought to give exceptional weight to the opinion of his own constituency, and no body can voice that opinion at this time like the Clare County Council.

It is possible that there will be a divided Ireland in any event, whether or not the treaty be ratified, yet a divided Ireland in case of rejection would entail far more tragic consequences than a divided Ireland in case of ratification. Rejection means war with the British Government without the support of world opinion for the Irish belligerents.

The Clare County Council wisely stresses the importance of the drift of world opinion. It would be impossible again to rally to the support of the Irish cause a great body of favorable sentiment throughout the world, or in America alone, in case of the treaty's defeat by Irish bitter-enders. A bitter-ender solution means annihilation for the cause, if not for Ireland, and the most encouraging aspect of the present Irish situation is that so many Irishmen in the homeland appreciate the fact in its full significance.

According to a statement in The Mail and Empire, it is a good deal easier to procure a revolver in Ontario, than a bottle of whiskey; in other words, it is more difficult to get a drink of liquor than it is to get a murderous weapon. A man who appears to be getting drunk may be arrested by a policeman and his ambition frustrated. There is no way in which a policeman can detect a man on his way to commit a murder with the weapon of destruction in his pocket. It is only after the crime has been committed or attempted that the police have any warning. In the great majority of cases they cannot act until it is too late to prevent a crime. When through accident a man is arrested on suspicion and is found to be in possession of a revolver he is fined a tenth or a twentieth of the sum that he would be fined for carrying a flask of whiskey. In fact, a man may more safely be a potential murderer, than an actual "drunk."

A correspondent wishes to know whether a member of any Provincial Government is still entitled to the prefix "Honorable" after he ceases to hold office. He is not; the only persons entitled to retain the title "Honorable" for all time are members of the Privy Council. Every other person ceases to be an "Honorable" when he quits office. This applies even to Senators, members of the Judicial Bench, everybody in fact. Even the Lieutenant-Governor of a Province is not an "Honorable" unless a Privy Councillor. But His Majesty may, by special warrant, grant permission to retired Speakers of the Senate and Commons, and to the Judges, to retain the prefix for life. It is a common practice once a man has become an "Honorable" for any reason, to address him that way afterwards. The practice is wrong, however, and entirely unauthorized.

While there cannot be the slightest objection to the course taken by President Harding in releasing a number of political prisoners, if he felt disposed that way, it does seem to be rather a poor time to release ex-soldiers who were found guilty of murdering a British officer, after they had served only a couple of years or so of their life sentences. A political offense is a more or less venial one; cold-blooded murder is not.

There is not a single argument that can be put up and successfully maintained in favor of the use of submarines in warfare. As an effective, legitimate fighting weapon the submarine proved a failure in the war. Its only value was in its attacks on unarmed and unprotected merchant ships. Not a transport with troops was lost from the German submarines, but they sank 12,000,000 tons of ship-

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

God Save Ireland.

(London Daily News.)  
There was a famous scene in the House of Commons, often quoted since when the Home Rule Bill was passed by the Liberal Government. "God save Ireland," shouted Mr. Crooks. "And God save England too," cried Mr. Redmond. The happy ending to the long tragedy, which men of good-will looked for then, was lost in the smoke of war and the grime of angry passions. Now at long last the curtain is rising down again—we hope for the last time. The old episode remains the best.

To Truck With The Bolsheviks.

(London Morning Post.)  
A subtle attempt is being made to create an impression that the Bolsheviks are modifying their creed, and shedding the last traces of the Communist creed. But such changes their words much easier than the leopard can change its spots, but in the things that really count the Bolshevik is as unchangeable as any beast of prey. The Bolsheviks, fundamentally, are an immoral force in a weak world. To trade with such men would be an ignominy and the profit to be reaped would be a profit of shame.

The Children's Festival.

(Providence Journal.)  
Fortunate is the home in which there are children to emphasize the possibilities of Christmas. A city woman who possesses neither children or her own, has a small nephew and niece, exclaimed yesterday: "I'm going to have a happy Christmas, because I have been invited by friends to spend the day with them, and there are three children in the family." It is indeed in childhood that the festival centres. Let us do what we can to make Christmas joyful for some children—and in his holiday satisfaction we shall find our own.

A Prophecy Fulfilled.

(Excerpt from Mail.)  
When Grover Cleveland twisted the British lion's tail, in a dispute over a Venezuelan boundary, so vigorously that war seemed imminent, little attention was paid to the fact that Balfour's prophecy of a new British-American doctrine that would some day be formulated. Said Mr. Balfour, speaking in the British Parliament in that crucial hour that is now 25 years behind us: "The time must come, when some one, some statesman more fortunate even than President Monroe, will lay down the doctrine that between English-speaking peoples war is impossible." Is Mr. Balfour one of those rare prophets who live to see their prophecy fulfilled?

The Future of Russia.

(Los Angeles Times.)  
Recent investigations of Russia's inner condition under Bolshevik rule reveal a state of affairs appalling to contemplate. Factories are closed, the population is oppressed and terrorized, the peasantry robbed and killed, and the cities are dominated by a power more cruel in its arbitrary measures than the autocratic dynasty which it supplanted. Apparently something in the nature of a civil war must exist, quickly or there will be no Russia to reconstruct and regenerate. That such a cataclysm is bound to come is the opinion of some who have been in closest contact with inside affairs in that tempest-torn land. Bolshevik rule cannot, in the nature of things, continue indefinitely.

The Same Old Turk.

(Detroit Free Press.)  
A despatch to the French newspaper *Leclair* from the district recently turned over to the Kemalists by the French Government opens with the statement, "Already the Kemalists are sending their emissaries to the Christians through Siras towards we know not what place of exile or death." Then follows a recital of numerous facts which indicate that Turkish persecutions of Christians in Cilicia are already under way. If there had been no other reason for protecting these people than their natural fear of the Kemalists, it would have been enough. The despatch to the *Leclair* indicates that the Turks are now turning over to the Christians in Cilicia should not have been abandoned.

At the End of the Road.

(London Daily News.)  
The policy of appeasement, based originally on the French fear of a German war of revenge and the French dependence on German indemnities to make France's budget, can lead in the end only to the moral isolation of France and to her complete financial collapse; and on that account we welcome all that is said by the French faint indications that among certain French political groups more liberal sentiments are beginning to find expression. There is a strong disposition in this country to forego our claims to French debts, as there is in the United States a growing body of opinion eager to come to France's financial and economic assistance. In one way or another, France is squandering her resources on vast military commitments, and in deliberately checking the reconstruction of Central Europe, France is throwing a heavy strain on these charitable and prudent intentions.

## THE LAUGH LINE

The Bishop's Explanation.  
Someone had remarked to Phillips Brooks that athletes seemed to lead moral lives. "They have to," returned the good Bishop. "They have no God to forgive them if they don't."—Boston Transcript.

Of Two Evils.

Cohen—"I'll be very shilling I take to see off it is good."  
Isaacs—"But a'd' you afraid of microbes?"  
Cohen—"Well, yes, but not so much as I am afraid of bad money."—Spare Moments.

Give Himself Away.

A young man in a parlor alone. To him a beautiful girl entered. Thereupon the young man arose, took six cigars from his upper waistcoat pocket and laid them carefully on the piano, and

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

"Ma made a coconut pie today, and this afternoon I saw it out in the kitchen, nobody being there but me and the pie, and I took a little hunk out of one side to see what it tasted like and then I took a little hunk out of another side to see if it tasted the same all over, and then I took a little hunk out of another side to detract attention from the hunk out of the first 2 sides, and tonight while we was eating supper I kept on thinking of the coconut pie and wondering what would happen when Nora brought it in with the 3 little hunks missing.

Wrote that letter with Benny, he don't seem to be eating much, is he sick, or is the world merely coming to an end? and pop.

Is anything mung, Benny? Ted ma.  
No man, I sed. Me not being sure weather there was not all the pie came in, thinking, G. I wonder if I better offer to go out and bring it in myself and then accidentally drop it to disguise how it looked.

Being the only idea I could think of and I sed, Hay ma do you want me to go out and bring in the pie and save Nora the trouble?

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## De Valera Believed To Have Lost Prestige During Treaty Debate

His Own Constituency Fails Him in His Fight, and Future Prospects Not Bright.

London, Dec. 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Daily Breeze's adjournment of further debate on the Irish peace treaty until Jan. 3, although coming as a surprise here, was considered as favorable for ratification. By agreement between the contending factions, the Daily members will deliver no speeches touching on the treaty during the period of adjournment, nor participate in public meetings at which the treaty is discussed, but it is believed the Irish people will get together and agitate for ratification.

Agricultural and business associations and civic bodies in Ireland are holding meetings to discuss resolutions in favor of the treaty and, although it is recognized that there will be some declaration against acceptance, it is believed the majority will support the stand of Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins and their treaty advocates. The adjournment period will thus, it is said, be equivalent to a popular referendum.

The English newspaper correspondents in Dublin emphasized the importance of the speech of Richard Mulcahy, chief of staff of the Irish republican army in the Daily yesterday in which he advocated acceptance of the treaty. They thought that his support, with that of such fighting men as Michael Collins and J. J. McKeown, assured the adhesion of the republican army through out the country.

Some of the correspondents also dwell upon what they consider Eamon De Valera's loss of prestige, as indicated by the vote for adjournment, which he opposed. De Valera's statement that when he assumed the republican presidency he did not regard his oath as fettering his actions was regarded as damaging his influence.

## WORKERS' PARTY ADOPT ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION

Propose to be Governed in United States by Central Committee of Seventeen Proletarians.

New York, Dec. 27.—The workers' party of America, organized yesterday, today adopted several articles of the constitution under which they propose to be governed by a central committee of 17 proletarians.

The second session of the organization's national convention attracted a crowd of spectators and sympathizers which filled the labor temple meeting place, but if the lookers-on came for thrills they were disappointed. At yesterday's meeting some dozens of aspiring delegates were thrown out bodily, but today only one man was ejected—for calling the president of floor a liar.

The purpose of the party, according to the tentative declaration of principles subscribed to today was to "organize the working class for the abolition of capitalism through the establishment of a workers' republic."

Another article proposed limitation of membership to those "who accept the principles and dictates of the workers' party of America and agree to abide by the discipline of the party." One of the delegates suggested to Steven Birscher, the chairman, that members be limited to men and women of sound moral character.

The meeting was punctuated by wailing of the "Internationale" and a new song to the tune of "Maryland" beginning "We'll keep the red flag flying here."

"Any person who accepts the principles of this organization is a person of sound moral character." The meeting was punctuated by wailing of the "Internationale" and a new song to the tune of "Maryland" beginning "We'll keep the red flag flying here."

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## U. F. M. To Hold Convention At Winnipeg Jan. 11

Politics, Temperance and Marketing of Crops to be Thoroughly Considered.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 27.—Arrangements for the annual convention of the United Farmers of Manitoba, to be held here Jan. 11 to 13, the first ever held in Winnipeg, former ones always having been held in Brandon, are nearing completion. Limited accommodation in Brandon necessitated removing the meeting place to a larger centre. It is expected that from 800 to 1,000 delegates and visitors will be in attendance.

General problems facing the movement, organization, marketing, the provincial platform, the temperance situation, etc., will be under discussion. Something new from the proceedings of past gatherings will be introduced when the convention takes the opportunity of expressing in a public way to the people of Winnipeg the message of the movement generally in the evening of January 13, when two representative Manitoba speakers will address a mass meeting of delegates and citizens.

Miss Agnes MacPhail, Canada's first woman M. P., will probably be one of the speakers at the convention. Another speaker from outside the province will likely be William Irvine, the successful candidate of Calgary. It is hoped also that the whole round dozen of Progressive Freeholders of Winnipeg, the rural constituencies of Manitoba, will be present and deliver brief addresses.

The United Farmer women of Manitoba will hold a one-day convention Jan. 10.