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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1920.

CONDITIONS IN IRELAND.

With Bishop LeBlanc's statement that there is something terribly wrong in Ireland no one will want to disagree; but when he says that the sympathy of all mankind is with her he makes an assertion that can hardly be borne out by facts. A certain amount of sympathy of a kind is undoubtedly felt for the Irish people; but it is the sympathy that regrets that as a people they are so misguided in their efforts to improve their position.

How is it that Ulster is prosperous, while the remainder of the country is in such a state of trouble and unrest? If one section of the people can thrive and be contented, what is there to prevent other sections from being the same? The answer, we fear, is to be found in the fact that the Ulster people are industrious and not afraid of work; but with regard to the people of the other parts of the country the reverse is the case. Why do Irishmen when they go over to England—as they do by the thousands—every year to work in the harvest and potato fields, save money, and go back to their own country at the end of the season with good lump sums in their pockets? Why do they not use the same diligence and care in their work for themselves at home as they do for their employers in England? The land laws in Ireland provide for land being obtained for farming purposes on the most favorable terms than it can be got in England, and if an Irishman is inclined to work at home, he has just as good an opportunity to do so in his own behalf as he has by coming to England and working for wages. But the trouble is that he won't. And if Ireland were to be proclaimed a Republic tomorrow, conditions would remain the same. The Irishman can no more change his easy-going, don't-care nature than the leopard can change his spots. Ireland will never be anything else but poor until her people change their ideas and modes of life, and they are not likely to do this under their present instructions. It is not a question of government at all.

There is one matter on which all can agree with Bishop LeBlanc, and that is his desire that Ireland's difficulties may soon be settled. But it is, we fear, useless to look for very much improvement so long as bands of agitators are allowed to roam the country stirring up strife and discord; as long as organizations are frankly hostile to all rule and order in Ireland are sent to other countries to collect funds to be used to further spread the incendiary doctrines, the following out of which has brought Ireland to the condition it is now in.

THE TENDENCY OF PRICES.

In practically all business centres in Canada a condition is developing in which labor has to seek employment, whereas from the beginning of the late war until the present time a supply of labor has not been equal to the demand, says the Canadian Bank of Commerce in its October letter on trade conditions. Employers are now in a much better position to adjust their labor forces so as to obtain more efficiency, and the effect of this has been in evidence for some time past. On the other hand, there has been a marked diminution in the demand for many classes of commodities. These two tendencies—the one towards greater efficiency in production, and the other towards more careful purchasing—will accentuate the trend towards lower prices.

In the absence of any marked change in wage schedules, however, and with only a slight surplus of labor on the market, it would appear that the decline in prices cannot be rapid. Retail merchants in all parts of the Dominion continue to purchase on the basis of their day-to-day requirements and as a rule are taking steps to reduce their stocks to conform with the present situation. Public discussion of the downward trend of prices in the case of certain commodities has left an impression that the country has entered upon a period of sharp decline in all markets. This view has apparently been accepted by a large section of the general public, but does not appear to be justified so long as wages, transportation charges, and other factors in the cost of production remain on their present basis.

Slackness exists only in a limited number of industries; the majority continue active and have orders on hand which will keep them busily occupied for some months. It is obvious, however, that output is nearer the point at which it will be equal to demand than has been the case for some years. This is due in a measure to the moderating of demand, a tendency which may be covered by the distribution of the proceeds of this season's crop. Conditions must also be taken

of the fact that labor generally is becoming more settled, so that there is less industrial strife and more evidence of efficiency.

WHEAT SPECULATION.

Is market manipulation at the bottom of the recent decline in the price of wheat? A member of the United States Senate says that it is, and a Commission has been appointed by the United States Government to find out whether it is or not. The Commission has completed its investigations at Chicago and will go the round of all the grain centres in the United States. The report of the Commission will be awaited with interest by grain growers in Canada as well as in the United States.

The charge that prices are controlled by the operation of speculative dealers has often been made. Of course "bear operators" could not drive down the price if circumstances did not favor them. It has been pointed out by a contemporary that the principal condition necessary for the success of a campaign to beat down prices at the beginning of a crop month is a large supply of grain. A big crop may come on the market before the whole of the last year's crop has been disposed of. This state of affairs would tend to depress prices even if there were no speculative dealers trying to make money by selling short. Another condition whose influence on prices is downward is the rush to market new wheat because farmers need the money. If such conditions were not present, "bear speculators" would not be able to hammer prices down very far. It is difficult to say what degree the depression of prices at the beginning of a selling season is to be charged to manipulation, and what degree to the actual weight of offerings.

There is another factor to be taken account of, and that is the deliberate withholding of orders on the part of grain merchants and flour manufacturers in a year of large grain offerings. At the present time British importers of wheat are not coming on the market. They are holding off. They are of the opinion that there is enough wheat and other grains to make impossible the maintaining of anything like wartime prices. They believe that by keeping off the market they can wear down prices considerably below the present levels. They are not at the moment obliged to buy in any market at which the grain is held for prices ruling above those now current. They may be right or they may be wrong. The effect of such a deferring of demand on the part of the importing market that has most to do with making the price cannot but be depressing to the price.

SYLVIA PANKHURST'S WISDOM.

Sylvia Pankhurst's declaration in her treacherous letter to Lenin, the rascally head of the Russian Soviets, that she didn't think she would go on a hunger strike because the British Government had adopted a policy of permitting hunger strikers to die and hence made hunger striking useless, reveals another phase of the MacSwiney case that is too often lost sight of. That hunger striking as a method of defeating the ends of criminal law has, fortunately, become unfashionable is illustrated by the announcement that hereafter it will not be adopted by Sinn Féiners who may be arrested. Good business.

By the way, as the Ottawa Journal points out, this same Sylvia Pankhurst tells Lenin that she is desperately in need of financial help from Russia in the publication of her Bolshevik sheet in England and that she had had to borrow paper from the London Herald—the alleged "labor" organ published by the precious Lansbury with Soviet assistance—in order to supply a request for 50,000 copies to be distributed to South Wales coal miners now on strike.

The cause of true labor, like the cause of the true Irishman, suffers more from the conduct of its questionable friends than from the attacks of its open enemies.

It is most earnestly to be hoped that the prospects which are now held out for a settlement of the miners' strike in Britain will materialize, and that there will very soon be an end of the trouble. The arrangements proposed for a settlement appear to be in the nature of a compromise, but that they should be satisfactory all round is all that is needed. A strike of the present time, if carried to a bitter end, would have led to a period of trouble and distress that would have exceeded anything that the people were called upon to endure during the war.

It will doubtless be a source of gratification to the Globe and our other city contemporaries that the decision

of Mr. Justice Barry in the county court matter relieves them of the necessity of publishing any further samples of "Sunday-school-debating-sixty-juvenility."

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Value of a University.
 (Melbourne Argus.)
 The value of a university is to be gauged not only in the number of its graduates, but in its influence on the mass of the people, and in most unexpected places this may be observed. Sir John MacFarland says, "There is no citizen of the State who does not benefit directly from the existence of our University." This being so, citizens should do their best by assisting the appeal to ensure that the University shall not be hampered in its beneficial work.

Divining Rods.
 (Portland Oregonian.)
 We are inclined to accept with reserve the report that the French Government has decided to test the value of water-divining in its African colonies and has appointed a number of hazel-twig experts as members of a scientific commission consisting of other scientists and geologists to hunt for new oases in the Sahara desert. The divining rod has been pretty thoroughly discredited by consistent non-performance in the centuries during which superstitious belief in its efficacy has prevailed. The pioneers of the west, particularly those who settled in the little watered sections, were familiar with it. If the divining rod had had the power that is claimed for it, the country would now be dotted with flowing wells and rich mines.

The Modern City.
 (Westminster Gazette.)
 One cannot, certainly, find new horizons in this sense—at will; but to those who are adventurous, not only in their actions, but in their reading, there is a new world to be discovered in new experience, and their desire for new experience, these revolutions are likely to come more fully and more fruitfully. It is bad to look always in one place, whether physically or mentally. Even fields, fair rivers, and high mountains can make a prison in which the captive, dulled by habit, carries out his daily task mechanically. In a sink, at the end of the day, almost like an animal, to sleep. A city, on the contrary, which is so often compared by poets to prison, need not really be so, for all its stiff array of houses, its stony pavements, its smoky air. The larger the city of today the easier to get away from it.

A BIT OF VERSE

A FRIENDSHIP.
 The lift of a great impulse up and up, Oh, thou art as a billow bearing forth,
 Urged by the insistent Wind of the North,
 Lustrable, eternal, blinding-bright, foam-soft!
 My life reels to feel the surge
 Of that great power bearing it aloft;
 Trembles and aways before the resist-
 Less surge.
 While a pure wind blows keen upon my brow,
 This is thy friendship now.
 A mighty power. Oh, thou hast seemed to sup
 At God's great feast of wisdom and of love,
 High in the glowing halls of heaven above.
 To drain immortal nectar from Christ's cup
 That meant to earth no idle purity.
 But a great vision high, strong as the sea—
 The lift of a great impulse up and up!
 —Howard Buck in "The Tempering," Yale Series of Younger Poets.

THE LAUGH LINE

Wouldn't it be nice if we could have the bills payable sent to the old address?

Naturally.
 Lifesaver—Can you swim, sonny?
 Boy—Yes.
 Lifesaver—Where did you learn it?
 Boy—in the water.

Very Old Fashioned.
 An old fashioned fellow appeared in a "down town" theatre as a method of "How much is it?" before he told them to wrap it up.—Detroit News.

The Usual Way.
 The nursery is for the children to cry in, the den is for father to growl in, but both have a way of doing both all over the house.

Unkind.
 "They say that travel broadens the mind."
 "What a stay-at-home you must have been."

Always Last.
 "The race is not always to the swift."
 "Possibly not, but no snow horse I ever bet on finished first."

Natural.
 "That confounded waiter spilled some steaming soup down my neck."
 "Don't blame you for getting hot under the collar."—Boston Transcript.

Self-Reliant.
 "You seem very proud of your new son-in-law."
 "I am. He's been in the family three months now and so far hasn't asked to get a better job for him."

Real Reason.
 Regarding B. C.'s decision on the liquor question a Western visitor says they were getting so dry that they had to pin the stamps on the envelopes.

Comprehensive.
 "Tom—So Miss Elmore rejected you. On what grounds?"
 "Dick—Well, it sounded to me like an essay on eugenics, genealogy and finance."—Boston Transcript.

Not Competent To Advise.
 So many of Mrs. Youngwife's flimsy underlings had been ruined by careless washing that she decided to make some that were more durable, even though less brilliant. With this an

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAZ

A man came to fix our setting room window yesterday on account of me having accidentally break it by trying to see how hard I could knock on it with a marble without axially breaking it, and he had a little putty left over and gave it to me after I asked him for it, and I made a imitation bump with it on one side of my forehead and went up in ma's room and ma was setting there darnin' holes out of socks, me saying, How do you do, ma?

Very well, thanks, but wya all the formality? sed ma.
 Me not saying wya, and I wawked around a while without ma noticing the bump, and I started to go up and down rite in front of her, and she sed, For goodness sake keep out of my life, you ack like a persin with St. Vitich's dance.

Yes man, have you got any iodine, ma? I sed.
 Iodine? sed ma. And she quick looked, saying, Graphites alive, Benny Potts, wat on erth did you do to your bed?

O that, that aint anything, I ant worry about that, ma, I cant even feel it, I sed.

Nonsents, its the worst black and blue looking thing I ever saw, you poor child, come heer and let mother see it, sed ma.

Aw, it aint panedil, ma, you can see it from there, I sed, and ma sed, Now theres no uss pendin' it duzent hort be looked close and saw it was only putty and the first thing I knew she hit me a even feaser one on the other side, sayin, There, maybe you cant feel tha' either.

And she sat down and kepp on darnin' holes out of socks and I took the putty off and threw it in the wast basket as hard as I could as if I didnt think as much of it as wat I did wen I first got it.

Wich I didnt.

view, she consulted Arvilla, the laundress.
 "Arvilla," she said, I am going to make some underwear that will not be so perishable, and I wonder if white cotton crepe washes well? "I don't know," Miss Youngwife, replied Arvilla, "how that washes. I always wears silk underwear, myself."

A Sad Reflection.
 "Wonderful boy baby."
 "Yes. Isn't it too bad to think that there are people somewhere who will some day insist that he isn't good enough to marry their daughter."—Detroit Free Press.

Daily Fashion Hint

Prepared Especially For This Newspaper



EMPHASIZING LONG LINES.

Dark blue serge for the one-piece frock is undoubtedly smart, and when a beaded border is added to the tunic, what more could be desired? The blouse with long lines is emphasized in this model. It fastens in surplice effect and has long, slender revers and a rolling collar. Close-fitting sleeves and a narrow belt of ribbon tell the rest of the story. Medium size requires 3 1/2 yards 54-inch serge.

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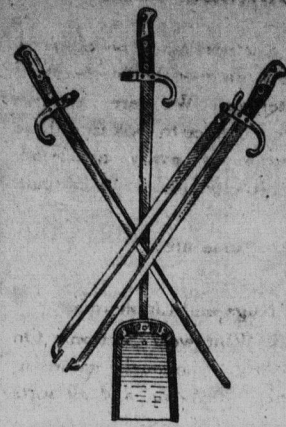
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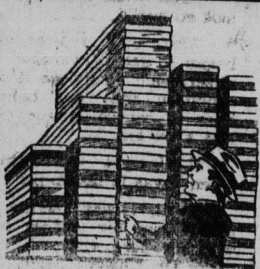
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OBITUARY.

Thomas P. Mullaly
 The death of Thomas P. Mull son of Patrick and Helen Mull Charles street, occurred early yester morning. He was eighteen year old, and formerly resided with parents in Newcastle. He is su ed by his parents, three brothers, and of Michigan; William and Ch el home, and one sister, Maie home. The funeral will be hel Sunday afternoon from his par



"My, You A

"YES, I am feeling "And how is b "He is just da can be."

"And what have look so well?"
 "Oh, I got run-down began to get discourag miserable. I suppose condition that got h then, of course, it wo look after him."

"I thought you l when I was in last tim "Well, I was feel that I sent for mothe was not here a day using Dr. Chase's Ner

"I should have to we always use Dr. C when any of us get ne

"For the first few that it was doing mu found myself sleepin less worried and irrita