

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1919.

THE WORLD'S SHIPPING.

Admiral Jellicoe has directed attention to the effect of the war upon the merchant shipping of the principal maritime nations, and the challenge of America to Britain's premier position—a fact which affords a cogent argument why the Canadian Government should push its programme of merchant ship construction in the interests of Empire trade and prestige. Before the war 42 per cent. of the world's ocean tonnage was owned by the United Kingdom, while the sea-going tonnage of the United States amounted to only 4.6 per cent. In 1914 the United Kingdom owned 18,892,000 tons of ocean shipping; the United States owned 2,027,000 tons gross, exclusive of the shipping on the Great Lakes. According to a recent publication of Lloyd's, the United Kingdom now has 16,345,000 tons, and the United States 3,773,000 tons—a British decrease of two and one-half millions, as compared with an American increase of seven and three-quarter millions, or 383 per cent. The United Kingdom now owns 34.1 per cent. of the world's shipping, and the United States, including the Lake tonnage, which is now a relatively small item, now owns 24.9 per cent., or, exclusive of the Lake shipping, 20 per cent. During the war the United States acquired 1,500,000 tons of shipping from Japan, but the change in her relative position has been mainly effected by her own shipbuilding efforts. Japan managed to increase her merchant fleet by 800,000 tons during the war, in spite of big sales to America.

In spite of the enormous losses due to the war, the world has increased its steam tonnage by two and one-half million tons, though the sail tonnage has decreased a million tons, partly due to the war, and partly to the continuation of the process of substituting steam for sail. The world now possesses 43,000,000 tons of steam vessels, as against 45,500,000 tons at the outbreak of the war. But Lloyd's points out that if it had not been for the war the normal increase in the world's tonnage would have raised the total to 55,000,000 tons. This figure is at a loss of 7,500,000 tons. But the loss in shipping efficiency is evidently greater. Many of the ships built since 1914 are not equal in efficiency to those built before. Many of the finest and biggest British ships were sunk, and have not been replaced. Ordinarily a considerable tonnage was broken up every year and replaced by superior ships, but during the war 32 per cent. of the total tonnage in 1914 has had to be constructed to replace lost tonnage. Since the armistice 1,750,000 tons of enemy shipping have been taken over by the Allies, but as the distribution has not been fully determined the effect upon the relative position of Britain and America is not taken into account in Lloyd's figures.

The war had other consequences which have affected the efficiency of shipping. Harbor construction has been more or less at a standstill, provision of dry docks has not kept pace with the needs of shipping; with more shipbuilding plans there are too few plants equipped for repairing ships. Much time is lost through delays in port and tardiness in repairs.

MR. CRERAR'S VIEWS.

Mr. Crerar says the farmers form about 50 per cent. of the population of Canada and have about 10 per cent. of the representatives. Undoubtedly the farmers have not had proportionate representation at Ottawa or the Provincial capitals on a population basis, and that has been their own fault. It has been a fault. They have heretofore been content to support the old party line candidates, or they have been too busy making a good living to take much interest in politics. As a matter of fact the farmers have a better opportunity of electing representatives than the city dwellers, for owing to the blindness of politicians to the growth of cities the farmers have a great preponderance of voting power. The fact that a Farmers' Party has arrived at power in Ontario, though it barely represents a third of the votes cast at the polls, might be expected to cause some concern among urban populations, whose very existence depends on industries the interests of which may be seriously affected by Mr. Crerar's programme. Mr. Crerar declares that an industry which needs protection against the competition of larger foreign organizations or cheaper labor are not wanted in Canada, and should go out of business. Carried to a conclusion, his argument is that the Canadian farmers should buy the manufactures of countries of cheap labor like Japan or China, but it may be doubted whether he wants the Canadian farmers to rely on the markets of cheap labor countries for the absorption of their own products. The Canadian farmers are probably aware of the fact that about 85 per cent. of their products are sold in the Canadian market, and they know too, that without the manufac-

turing industries of our cities they would have no home market worth considering. One of Mr. Crerar's associates told a Western audience the other day that one man on a farm was as good as a dozen employed in urban industries. Probably he did not regard coal mining as an urban industry, though it furnishes the motive power of nearly all urban industries. In any case the prairie farmers, far from a woodpile, are likely to consider the miner a rather important individual before the winter is over. If there were a dozen men on the farm to every man employed in a city industry would the position of the farmers be improved? Where would they sell their products? They certainly would not sell 85 per cent. of their produce in the home market. Without Sir John A. Macdonald's "tall chimneys" the Canadian farmer would not be in as prosperous position as he is today.

A NATIONAL LOTTERY.

The French Government is promoting a scheme to make lottery loans. It is organizing a company to issue premium bonds—a thin camouflage for the national character of the undertaking, inasmuch as the President will name the director-general of the company and most of the interest on the bonds is to be provided by the State. The proceeds of the lottery are to be used for the reconstruction of the devastated areas in France.

As soon as the company is organized an issue of 4,000,000,000 francs will be made, in bonds of the denomination of 500 francs, purchasable for 495, and redeemable at 600 over a period of sixty to seventy years. The interest will be 5 per cent., free of taxation. To encourage the purchase of these bonds four drawings per year will be held, and prizes to the amount of 10,000,000 francs will be distributed. While the scheme has the dangers of a Government leader, the French politicians claim that it has the justification of necessity, and they hope the worthiness of the object will make nearly as great an appeal to the public as the prospect of winning a prize. They do not think the gambling feature of the scheme will have any appreciable effect upon the thrifty habits of the French people, or that the possibility of winning a big prize will moderate their accustomed industry. That the French Government should sponsor such a scheme would not seem to indicate a great hope that Germany will pay for the enormous damage done in France.

An interesting fact in connection with the failure of the American Senate to ratify the Peace Treaty is that it leaves the agreement by which Great Britain and the United States undertook to guarantee aid to France in case of another unprovoked German invasion up in the air. Hon. Bonar Law told the House of Commons recently that so far as Britain's obligation on the United States Government taking the same obligation. Mr. Law thought it would be a mistake to assume that the United States would not take a share of world responsibilities, and most British journals are hopeful that when there is a fuller realization of all that is involved in the Treaty and the League there will be a change in the attitude of the Senate.

WHAT THEY SAY

Waterloo Revenged.
 (Hamilton Herald.)
 In kicking all the best of British heavyweights, that young Frenchman, George Carpentier, has done much to even up the score between France and Britain as it stood after Waterloo.

Unanswerable Questions.
 (London Punch.)
 "There are scientific questions," said Sir Oliver Lodge, recently, "that will never be answered." One of these was recently propounded by the Basuto chief, who, after listening to the House of Commons for an hour, asked what it was for.

England's Milk Problem.
 (The New Commonwealth, London.)
 Nothing can justify the farmer's price of 3s. 6d. a gallon for milk. The children of your parents will die in thousands this winter with milk at 1s. a quart. Those that survive will suffer throughout their lives for the ill nourishment of their childhood. Eggs are 15d. each. Potatoes are up about 300 per cent. Farming is the basic industry of all industries. On whose success life depends on

it. Why cannot England be farmed as one big farm, with State aid for machines and communal control of prices and distribution?

Where Private Ownership Failed.
 (Toronto Telegram.)
 Private ownership has controlled and still controls the production and distribution of coal in Canada.

Certainly Desirable.
 (Calgary Herald.)
 The federal Liberal party under Mackenzie King has decided to carry on a campaign of education for the people of Canada. The idea is not bad. Liberalism, as well as old line Toryism, are more or less dead issues, and if the new Liberals are to retain the old party name they will be wise to show the people that they are the same in name only.

The Empire's Future.
 (Boston Transcript.)
 However great England's financial and economic problems, British statesmen will be able to look with hope to the future. Great Britain has emerged victorious from the greatest war in history. Her vast empire remains intact, and there has been added to it many of Germany's former colonies. The elimination of the threat of the German navy, and the menace of German colonial expansion, will make possible great reductions in the next few years in the expenditures for national defence. The rising generation in Great Britain may well share in the greatest triumph in the history of the British Empire.

A BIT OF VERSE

FONTENOY.

(After the Battle, Early Dawn, Clare Coast.)
 (Emily Lawless in Ottawa Journal.)
 "Mary mother, shield us! Say, what men are ye,
 Sweeping past us so swiftly on this morning sea?"
 "Without sails or rowlocks merrily we glide,
 Home to Corca Bascain on the brimming tide."

"Jesus save you, gentry! why are ye so white,
 Sitting all so straight and still in this misty light?"
 "Nothing ails us, brother; joyous souls are we,
 Sailing home together, on the morning sea."
 "Cousins, friends, and kinsfolk, children of the land,
 Here we come together, a merry, rousing band;
 Sailing home together from the last great fight,
 Home to Corca Bascain, in the morning light."

"Men of Corca Bascain, men of Clare's Brigade,
 Harkon, stony hills of Clare, hear the charge we make;
 See us come together, singing from the fight,
 Home to Corca Bascain, in the morning light."

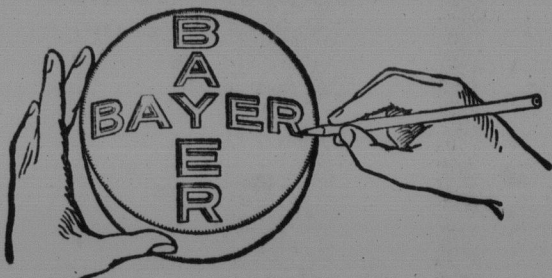
A BIT OF FUN

All Right Then.

Father (knocking a hen-house) —
 Tommy, take this new saw back to the shop and tell him to return the money. The saw is absolutely blunt.
 Tommy—But, father, surely you must be mistaken. Why, I saw a brick in two with it this morning, and it cut fine!

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Saturday afternoon as fellows was setting on my front steps, talking about football and Bullshiericks and the high cost of candy and different things, and Sid Hunt came up with his fox terrier Teddy, saying, Hello, fellows, hay fellows, wats you think, I've learned him a new trick, I've learned him how to tell different colors, he sarteny is a smart dog.

And he took 3 rags out of his pocket, being a red one and a yellow one and a green one, and put them down on the pavement, saying to Teddy, Teddy, go and bring me the red one.

Wich Teddy barked and ran and picked up the yellow one and bawt it back, Sid saying, See that, he thinks yello is red, he knows the colors all rite but he's got some of the names mixed up, he's a smart dog all rite, anybody that says they ever saw a smarter dog than wat his is dont know wat they're talking about.

And he put the yello rag back with the other 2 and sed to Teddy, Now, Teddy, lissen hard now, are you lissenin'—go and bring me the green one.

Wich Teddy barked and ran and bawt back the red one, Sid saying, See that, he thinks green is the name for red, wats you know about that for intelligent.

Aw, thats a heck of way to be intelligent, sed Puds Slimkins.

Hay dummy can be intelligent that way, sed Ed Wernick.

G, if I wassent any intelligenter than that, good nite, I sed.

All rite, I was jest going to tell him to go and get the yello one, and now jest for that I wont, come on, Teddy, sed Sid Hunt.

And he wawked away with Teddy following him holding his tale up strate as if he thawt he was even more intelligent than wat Sid thawt he was.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

PROFESSOR PORTA'S PROPHECY.

(From Barbados, B. W. L. Advocate)

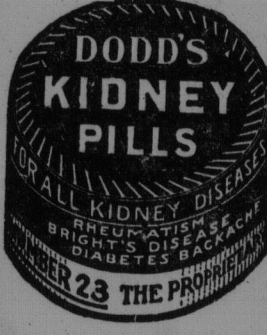
To the Editor:

Dear Sir—I have of course only the extract published in your issue of today to go upon, and it may be that in the absence of his complete statement I am doing him an injustice, but I desire to point out that Professor

Porta's assertion that "the planets, Mercury, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune will be in conjunction on 17th December, massed on the narrow limit of 25 degrees on the same side of the Sun" is absolutely incorrect. The planet nearest to the Sun on that day is Mercury, and his longitude is 244 degrees; the one farthest away is Neptune, and his longitude is 132 degrees; so that a distance of no less than 112 degrees in longitude separates them; and the other planets (except Uranus) lie scattered between them at reasonable distances one from the other. Neither on the 17th December nor at any other time this year is there such an assemblage of the heavenly bodies as he is stated to depict.

As to the mammoth sun-spot he predicts I can say nothing as I am not aware of any system of predicting the dates of such spots but there is quite enough unpleasantness awaiting the world this quarter as the result of the present conjunction of Mars and Saturn, and the coming eclipse of the Moon (on 7th November) and the Sun (on 22nd November) without trying to make matters look worse. I find it difficult to believe how any "astronomer" could have published such an absurdity as Mr. Porta is alleged to have done.

Yours faithfully
 E. ELWAR.



Not So Fixed.

"That 2 and 2 makes 4," said Professor Pape, "is as 'calorable' as were the laws of the Pedes and Meridians, of course the Merdes and Pedes—that is, the Pedes and Merdes—the—him—"
 "You doubtless intend to refer to the Merdes and Pedes," helpfully interrupted J. Fuller Gloom.
 "Exactly, thank you! Now, as 2 and 2 invariably make 4—"
 "But they do not. Arranged tandem, they make 22. What was the rest of your observation?"
 "Why—er—ah—I declare, I have forgotten."

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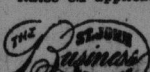
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