

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1919.

ITALIAN IMPERIALISM.

Italy's pretensions at the Peace Conference are causing some uneasiness. The rulers of that country are insisting on the literal carrying out of the provisions of the London Treaty of April, 1915, by which Italy took advantage of the necessities of the Entente to drive a hard bargain. Of that secret arrangement the exact terms are still shrouded in a certain mystery; but it is known that Italy in addition to her legitimate claims to Trieste, demanded a considerable part of the eastern Adriatic coast, which, on the principle of the rights of peoples properly belongs to the Slavs, twelve islands in the Aegean Sea, of which the population is entirely Greek, and important territorial concessions in Asia Minor and Africa. More than this, Italian military forces have occupied Fiume in spite of the protest of the Entente, and in spite, too, of the fact that the Treaty of London itself expressly assigns this city to the Serbo-Croats.

President Wilson has emphatically repudiated the pretensions of the rulers of Italy, claiming that the Conference must proceed without reference to any understanding of the past, involving a disregard of racial rights. This attitude of the President is certainly in line with the principles for which the free nations have been fighting, and it probably explains why Lloyd George seems to show a rather ready willingness to fall in with the American proposals of various kinds. Lloyd George doubtless feels that while the British people may admit that the Entente, fighting for its life against the monstrous force of Germany, was justified in stepping aside from the strict path of principle to prevent Italy going over to the enemy, they will nevertheless be anything but proud of the last piece of secret diplomacy to which Britain has been a party. More than this, the fact that Britain and France had to send troops to save Italy from complete overthrow, has, in the minds of many, absolved those countries from any particular obligation to Italy itself—much less to Italian imperialism.

If the pretensions of the Italian imperialists are allowed, Mr. Wilson's fourteen points will become a scrap of paper, and the Peace Conference will come no nearer laying the foundations of permanent peace than similar conferences have done in the past. In France there is a powerful element with imperialistic ambitions, especially in the Mediterranean, who look askance at the idealism of President Wilson, and would rather like to see the overthrow of the Wilson ideas as the guiding principles of the peace settlement. This element rather favors the idea of a combination of Britain, France and Italy settling the destinies of Europe with a common regard to their own particular interests, believing that the menace of Germany would always suffice to make them compare their differences. Against this programme, however, is the undoubted fact that the ambitions of France and Italy around the Mediterranean would soon develop points of difference and conflict of interests, and indirectly preclude the position of Great Britain in Egypt and the East.

What President Wilson champions as a question of principle, is strictly in line with the policy Lloyd George ought to support as a matter of Empire interest as well as of principle; and it is apparently not taking the commanding role in the Conference that Britain's part in the war would entitle him to take, it is because his hands are by way of being tied by a secret treaty entered into under duress. That the President will fall to carry the point so essential to a peace settlement of any permanence is highly improbable. If he accepted a compromise on this point his whole policy would be in the air, and a man of his high-minded idealism and strict sense of logic is not likely to stultify his repeated declarations of policy. If he failed to carry this point, his only course, consistent with his whole attitude to the war, would be to retire from the Peace Conference; and such a course would be regarded as a disaster by the great mass of British, French and Italian peoples. The machinations of Italian imperialists will not risk such a contingency, however vigorously they may press their claims in the hope of breathing new life into the old diplomacy. It is unlikely that they have any considerable support among the masses of the Italian people, who doubtless are as ready for a new deal as the peoples of other countries. At the outset of the war they showed their opinion of the old diplomacy by refusing to interpret the Alliance with Germany and Austria as an obligation to help those countries in their designs against civilization.

Certainly from the British point of view the situation is not without its irony. The spectacle of Lloyd George playing second fiddle to President Wilson while Britain and the United States are apparently quarrelling over the definition of the freedom of the seas, and threatening one another with competition in navy building, is interesting and suggests perhaps an understanding behind the scenes. Lloyd George is the last man in the world to keep out of the spotlight.

without a good reason. And President Wilson is the one man in the world who can remove him from the scene of a dilemma arising from the honest very undesired legacy. President Wilson is the one man who can lay the ghost of the old diplomacy.

BETTER SERVICE NEEDED.

The Post Office Department has a surplus of \$3,298,836. This is almost enough to buy a Ford motor truck and pay a driver for a year. Since man can remember, the mail to and from the St. John station has been carried under contract, a very objectionable custom which has led to frequent complaints. In recent years the contractor has repeatedly been warned that his contract would be cancelled, a matter which does not appear to be of great moment to him. This method of handling the mail has led to serious delay in delivery to the St. John post office, and consequent inconvenience to business houses, which find it necessary to answer letters on the same day as received. It has tied up mail carriers so that they have been unduly late in getting home in the evenings after their rounds are completed, and with the post office staff it has hindered the work at a busy time, which work should be distributed over a longer period. The present contract is about to expire and tenders are being called for new contracts. There is no more reason why the heavy mails passing from the St. John post office to the depot and other points of departure should be handled by contractors, than there is reason why the mail bags should be rented to the post office by a retail agent, or the staff of the post office furnished through an employment bureau. The transfer of the mails is as much a part of the work of the St. John post office as is the actual sorting, and that office should include in its equipment the proper vehicle for the transfer of this mail, and the persons to run it. This should be arranged by the department.

MR. CURRIE'S REQUEST.

After keeping it in his back pocket for a couple of months or so, Premier Foster has acknowledged the resignation of Hon. William Currie as speaker of the Legislature, and with great regret Mr. Foster also announces the string which Mr. Currie has attached to that resignation in the form of a request that his conduct in the matter of stampage shall not be discussed during his absence. Because of ill health Mr. Currie may not be in attendance until the legislative session is well advanced. This is unfortunate for Mr. Foster, prompted by his great desire for political purity, will, of course, wish to comment on Mr. Currie's conduct at the earliest possible opportunity. Yet he cannot do this if he is to acquiesce in the latter's urgent request. It is a difficult situation for both Mr. Foster and Mr. Currie. True, Mr. Currie, under Commissioner Friel's condemnation, will not be a sitting member of the House while he is a lying member of the hospital, and no one can object to his presence in the House when he is not there. But the spirit of his personality will be in evidence and the fact that he retains his seat as a member of the legislature will undoubtedly trouble the dreams of the only pure and unadulterated premier this Province has ever acknowledged. Mr. Foster's newspapers, which, of course, have not yet seen the McQueen report in the Potato Inquiry, are predicting that as a result of this report action by the Legislature will be necessary, but these newspapers do not suggest any legislative action based on Commissioner Friel's report, which latter document was made public long ago.

It is reported that contracts have been concluded by which Canada will furnish credits of \$25,000,000 each to France and Russia, the credits to be expended in the purchase of important necessities in Canada. Negotiations for a similar loan, it is said, are under way between Belgium and Canada. This indicates that the financial position of Canada is fairly satisfactory, while the expenditure of \$50,000,000, possibly \$75,000,000, on primal necessities, produced in this country, should have a healthy effect on the labor situation. Probably the material needed by these stricken countries will begin to move this summer, and should be in full flood next winter, bringing a considerable increase of business to this port. Here is another reason why the port of St. John should be provided with adequate equipment as soon as possible.

The Quebec Legislature is deluged with petitions asking amendments to the License Act. The people who are interested in presenting these petitions are not, however, very hopeful as to results, for the impression that Montreal will go dry at the time specified is confirmed by the working of the law of supply and demand, which seldom fails. All kinds of intoxicants which have been selling at very high prices since prohibition became general throughout Canada have now struck the toboggan and prices are being cut right and left, so that today these goods are being offered in some cases almost at sacrifice prices. Reductions will doubtless continue, for there is a

tremendous stock of liquor in Montreal to be disposed of before prohibition arrives.

WHAT THEY SAY

Making Progress.

Savannah News: A Mexican newspaper has said something complimentary of Wilson. We are making progress beyond the Rio Grande as well as beyond the Rhine.

Never Thought of That.

Cincinnati Enquirer: All we have to say is that Hon. "Burr" Borah seems to have permitted his super-heated conscience to heat him out of a fine White House dinner, a meal not to be sneezed at in these days of high cost of living in Washington.

Out in the Rain.

Baltimore Star: Senator Borah demands that the question of the League of Nations be submitted to a referendum of all the people. It seems that the people have a right to be consulted about almost everything but prohibition, and upon this question their opinion does not count.

A Service Decoration.

Atlanta Constitution: We Americans pay for what we get, is a boast you can make after you have mailed your income tax to the collector. An income-tax receipt in the wallet is a full brother to the gold service stripe on the sleeve. It's a service decoration.

Keep Partisan Discussion Out of It.

Philadelphia Inquirer: Let no one dare to attempt to drag the discussion of the League of Nations into partisan politics. This is a world matter—an issue between civilization and barbarism—and has nothing to do with the affairs of political parties.

Deserves an Iron Cross.

Louisville Courier-Journal: Joachim, a son of William Hohenzollern, is alleged to be implicated in certain intrigues looking to the restoration of monarchy. Joachim has distinguished himself by getting arrested, which is more than half a dozen sons of the Kaiser have done in doing during four years of war.

Off for the White House.

Philadelphia Post: "We are not certain that Ole Hanson, the heroic Mayor of Seattle, is eligible to the Presidency, but he is acting like a man on the way. The people of his country take quite naturally to a man of his courage."

Sensible and Just.

Alliance Review: "France believes in extending the payment of the cost of the war over a long period of time instead of trying to make taxes so high that the period during which payment should be made is cut short. This is a sensible plan, and it is the most just way of handling the situation."

The One Sad Feature.

Toronto Globe: "Ludendorff is writing his defence. Herr Hohenzollern is similarly engaged. Bethmann-Hollweg and other German celebrities are also reported to be writing the defence of the country. The outbreak of German fiction will not cease with the war."

Would Fill The Bill.

New York Herald: Bonfires around the globe on peace night—the night of the signing of the treaty—were proposed by Overseas Club in London. Probably enough unused Hun propaganda "literature" to provide the fuel.

Incomplete Figures.

New York Herald: Estimated that United States must pay \$1,200,000,000 a year for twenty-five years to clear of war debt. This, of course, is exclusive of any outlay made from time to time to feed Germany.

Co-Operation Versus Fight.

Toronto Telegram: For Canada it is important that the operation should be maintained in the future. Revolutionary propaganda will not win a victory. The "dread" will provide a steeple "job." We need close co-operation not class war. The solution of the difficulty seems to lie in constant conferences between employers and workers in the acceptance of a joint responsibility, and in the repression of suspicious and animosities.

Do Your Bit in Politics.

Toronto Star: Until recently many good citizens have been in the habit of neglecting politics as something in which they had no interest. Unwittingly they have been giving an impulse to Bolshevism, which they also despise. When party lines were drawn very tightly these indifferent citizens perhaps had some excuse. They heard politicians wrangling over the merits and faults of various parties and parties, and they turned away in weariness, declaring that one party was as good or as bad as the other. But politics in the broad sense means government and legislation, the working of the free institutions of the country. In that that every citizen ought to be interested.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE BRITISH BROTHERHOOD.
(Arthur Bennett, in the United Empire.)

God save our Empire grand,
The freeman's fatherland,
Wide as the world,
Still may its frontiers grow,
Its sons be swift to go
To greet all winds that blow,
With flag unfurled!

And may the races strange,
With dusky limbs, who range
These regions vast,
Love the same laws as we,
From utmost sea to sea—
Be as one family,
With us at last.

May all our borders flow
With milk and honey; know
Long years of Peace!
But should War's clarion sound,
And every hand be found
Against us, Lord, confound
Our enemies.

And may the realm that reach
Round the great globe, whose speech
Is Shakespeare's own,
In closer bonds unite,
Beneath one banner fight,
And let the world be light
And to Thy Throne!

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

THE 3RD PRINCE.

A Play.

Scene, the inside of a palace.
The King. Isabella, why don't you laugh warts in a wife? Such a beautiful princess as you are to be laughing and giggling all the time, and you haven't even laughed as much as a smile for 3 months and 4 days, and the more the doctors do, the less good it does. Ah, I have an idea. I'll put an advertisement in the paper offering your hand in marriage and either half of my kingdom to the first prince that makes you laugh.

The Princess. What do I care what you do?
Act 2.

Scene, 3 days later.
The King. Stop up, gents, stop up, and see what you can do?

First Prince. Prince, listen to this. I want to see a man up in a tree making faces, and everybody sed, Hay, come down out of that tree, you're acting like a nut up there, and the man sed, Well, it's a nut tree, ain't it?

The Princess. What do you mean?

2nd Prince. Look at me, princess, if you want to see a great imitation of a monkey, (he imitates one pritty good by jumping around and scratching himself.)

The Princess. You don't half to imitate one, you're one already.

3rd Prince. Are you ticklish, princess?

The Princess. Yes. What if your blinies?

3rd Prince. It's my blinies to tickle you. (Which he runs up to her and does in the ribs.)

The Princess. Hee hee hee. Hee hee hee.

The King. Prince, that was a fine idea. Do you have more?

3rd Prince. I'm always having them.

The King. I congratulate you on being my son in law.

3rd Prince. Don't mention it. I'll be a faithful husband and tickle her every time she starts to look sad.

The King. Let everybody rejoice.

The King. Let everybody do so.

The end.

AN EUGENIC LOVE SONG.

Stick out your tongue, my love, and let me taste it.

Once more its pink, uncoated loveliness.

Eugenia, healthy maid, each day I behold the new birthday gift I bring thee;

A brand-new stethoscope! Ah, nothing less.

But, oh, my dear, it gives me great distress.

To see you eat hot mufins with your tea!

Loved one, I know no other dame or maid

Whose bony conformations equal mine.

And when thy adenoids are cured next year

And my rheumatic ghosts have all departed

Eugenia, love, the doc will make you mine.

But pray be careful of your diet, dear.

—From the New York Sun.

A BIT OF FUN

Inexpensive Tonic.

"What is the best appetizer you know of?"

"The absence of the price of a meal," replied Jones.

Heard at the Club.

Doctor—What was the most confusing case you ever tried?

Judge—A case of champagne. I hadn't got half-way through it before I was all muddled up.

Better for the Nerves.

"Do you enjoy educational films?"

"Yes," replied the old-fashioned man, "it's a positive relief to me to see pictures of a great industrial plant in operation, assured that no villain is going to appear on the scene and conduct a splendid plot to get the fair heroine caught in the machinery."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

A Sinking Fund.

Mrs. Spendall (looking up from newspaper)—What is a sinking fund, Arthur?

Mr. Spendall (secretly)—Mine is.

Dinner Perseverance.

"Allow me to help you to a piece of Washington pie."

"No, thank you. I admire George's purity, perseverance and patriotism, but his pies I detest."—Boston Transcript.

Inopportune.

Husband—Have you had a pleasant afternoon?

Wife—No. Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Jenkins came together and left to

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CONDITIONS FOR LAND SETTLEMENT

All Provinces to be Assisted by the Government Are Subject to Conditions Required by an Order Council.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 27.—An order in council has been passed by the government, setting forth the conditions under which a settlement upon lands which provincial governments may open for settlement are to be assisted. It is provided that lands selected by provinces shall be subject to examination by the land settlement board and that suitable the board will assist in settlement within the areas selected. It is provided that homesteads must be within twelve miles of a shipping station in timber country and within fifteen miles in other countries.

The soldier settler must be enabled by provincial legislation to enter for a homestead on such lands, subject to the settlement conditions. The provincial governments shall be expected to provide as soon as possible suitable school accommodations for the settlers' children.

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LAST TIME FOR THE MUCH-DISPUTED FILM TODAY

The Lois Weber production "For Husband's Only" in which Mildred Harris appears, and which has been creating such a furore at the Imperial the last two days, will be put on for the last three times today. This afternoon there will be a double matinee, starting at 2 o'clock, with the Vitaphone farce "The Beloved Imposter," featuring Gladys Leslie. Then there will be the fifth chapter of the great Houdini serial "The Master Mystery," and the big story "For Husband's Only." In the evening the latter feature will occupy the screen from 7 to 8:30 and from 8:45 to 10:15, along with the serial and the Vitaphone farce. On Saturday the bill will be the Vitaphone story, the serial, and the Vitaphone two-reel comedy with Larry Semon.

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