

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1919.

U. S. AND THE TREATY.

Whether or not the painful episode of the illness of President Wilson has softened the hearts of the Senators the prospects for the ratification of the Peace Treaty without amendments or reservations are of a most hopeful character. Some time ago it was reported that forty-nine Senators were opposed to the Treaty, but the defeat of the Lodge amendment demanding that Japan's economic privileges on the Shantung peninsula taken over from Germany and accomplished much in the way of placing his peace policy and the League of Nations in a new light before the people. His answers to the arguments, misrepresentations, and unworthy appeals to anti-British prejudice, which had been industriously developed among pro-German and ultra-nationalist Irish elements, were cogent and comprehensive, and carried conviction to large gatherings. And in his determination to vindicate the Treaty he had the happy inspiration to bring the League of Nations down from the clouds of idealism in which he had previously enveloped it, and to give it the concrete aspect of an eminently practical plan for assuring the peace of the world.

It cannot be said as yet that the ratification of the Treaty without reservations is absolutely sure. But it can be said that Mr. Wilson, by one of those strokes of political genius which during his career have occasionally surprised his friends, has posed the question on a plane that tends to lift it beyond the reach of pro-German intrigue, and has brought home to his people the salient fact that having assumed the rights and privileges of a world power they cannot now repudiate the reciprocal responsibilities without incurring the odium of being quitters.

LAURIER'S SLIPPERS.

The determination of Ernest Lapointe, who has become an outstanding figure in Quebec politics, to run in Laurier's old constituency in the Liberal interest has led to the withdrawal from the contest of Armand Lavergne, who had intended to run in the Nationalist interest. In a two-column letter in Le Devoir, M. Lavergne gives his reasons for his withdrawal, and incidentally an example of how the language of lucidity can be used to conceal thought. But it is made plain that the very young Nationalist is acting on the advice of his friend and chief, Henry Bourassa, who, it is intimated, considers it more important that a semblance of unity should be preserved among the French-Canadian bloc at Ottawa at present than that an effort at self-assertion should be made on the part of the Nationalists. Of his consultation with Bourassa, M. Lavergne rather pathetically observes: "After having discussed the question at length, we came to the conclusion that a Nationalist election today, satisfying as it might be for the amour propre of two men so long outraged, could only have for its first result a renewal of the courage of our everlasting enemies, those who will never make peace with us, the imperialist, anti-French Tories."

M. Lapointe, who is the recognized leader of a group of young French-Canadian Liberals, is credited with the ambition to assume the role of Laurier, and there are those who see in his challenge to the Nationalists a carefully considered manoeuvre to promote his plans. At the Ottawa convention Lapointe and his young Liberal allies defied Premier Gouin, and made Mackenzie King leader of the Liberal Party; and now fresh from the business of king-making he has bearded Bourassa, and obliged that redoubtable chief to cry quits. Unless the unexpected happens he will return to Ottawa with a prestige which will make him the undisputed leader of the whole Liberal bloc from the Province of Quebec. But he may have to reckon with both Gouin and Bourassa later on, and it may transpire that his bold plans for forwarding his personal ambition have done more to divide than unite Liberalism in Quebec. In any case this enterprising leader of the Young Liberals has created an electrical situation in Quebec politics, the outcome of which will be watched with interest.

SIMPLE SIMON.

Sir John Simon, who holds aloft the flickering torch of Liberalism in the Mother Land, has been telling the people there that the first and most obvious lesson of the war was, that of all the belligerent countries in Europe, the only country able both to pay its way and lead hundreds of millions to its Allies was Free Trade Britain. The argument that free trade was responsible for the financial strength of Britain may or may not be true, but it is certainly not an obvious lesson of the war. On the contrary the country which has come out of the war with the greatest financial strength is protectionist America. And the argument that further elucidation in the light of the fact that at the time Bismarck said Great Britain was in a financial sense practically down and out, protectionist Germany was still going strong and still threatening to pull down the temple of civilization. A more apparent lesson of the war is that Great Britain under conditions guaranteeing her industries greater protection than any tariff could do was able to pay her artisans much higher wages than they ever received, and to carry on the bulk of her foreign commerce under unparalleled difficulties, and develop not a few flourishing new industries. While the British government has not developed a settled fiscal policy since the war, it has applied the principle of protection to a considerable number of industries, and its tendency to move in the direction of tariff reform is not likely to be checked by Sir John Simon's efforts to inject life into the free trade doctrines of Liberalism. Lloyd George has promised to create a new heaven and a new earth, but in his contemplated creation there is not likely to be much room for the Manchester Millennium of the Economic Harmonies.

A MUSICAL MATTER.

The preliminary organization of the new musical club is now complete and the committee which has taken in charge the definite formation of this organization is prepared to receive applications for membership. It is notable that this present movement is being conducted on strictly business principles. The club will be devoted to the advancement of music, to the creation of an orchestra and of a chorus, but these and other matters will be handled, not according to the opinions of musicians, all of whom may have their own individual fancies, but by practical business men whose endeavor it will be to see that the funds of the organization are collected and expended to the very best advantage. To make the club a success a large membership is required and it is to be hoped that the committee in charge will be given a warm welcome.

NOTES.

Reuben rules.
 Back to the Land.
 Good night, John Barleycorn.
 The ladies' votes got some goats.
 Old Man Ontario: And another little drink would do us lots of harm.
 When Adam ran and Eve voted who was then a prophet noted.
 Anyway Hearst knows the worst. But Dewart is still on uneasy street. His self-appointment to the leadership may have been premature.
 However, the Ontario farmers will not be able to plow a lonely furrow.

Col. Melville may be a new comer in the political arena, but he is maintaining Carleton County's tradition of hard-hitting in an election contest.
 Mr. Caldwell may have some definite opinions on the political issues of the day, but he has evidently learned something about the art of camouflage.

After prolonged cogitation Hon. Mackenzie King arrived at the conclusion that the best defence of his wartime activities was a statement, backed by a document from a millionaire corporation, that he did invaluable service by teaching Uncle Sam to settle labor troubles, and incidentally enabling him to sell more supplies to France and Britain at profitable prices. Some of his Liberal friends who have occasionally shown undue solicitude for American interests must regret that Mr. King's invaluable services are not now at the disposal of Uncle Sam, who is grievously troubled with labor difficulties. And Mr. King himself must be annoyed that his lessons have been so quickly forgotten.

WHAT THEY SAY

Work Discovered.
 Toronto Globe: The great railway strike may prove the big business mark.

of post-war labor troubles in Great Britain, as the Winnipeg strike did in Canada. Here there is evidence that men's minds are turning to work as a necessary and even a desirable thing.

Pulling Apart.

Farmer's Sun: H. S. Arkell, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, says our only security for the holding of the British market for bacon is in producing hogs to the limit. Then this man O'Connor comes along and threatens to prohibit the export of hog products altogether. We have such a multitude of officials in the country that one set does not even know what the other is doing and as a consequence one set pulls one way while the other pulls another.

Action Is Needed.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The country wants the treaty ratified immediately and without amendment. If minor reservations are necessary, however, to placate partisan jealousy, let them be voted without further delay. The officer who was told to lead his men to the capture of a definite objective, or to accomplish a certain result in organization or supply, made his effort, won or lost. Thereafter he stood upon the results and by them was judged. It is a hard rule, but a rule that braces spines and warms feet that are prone to be chilly if there is good somewhere in the man. And by it, also, the unfit disclose themselves quickly and are eliminated. Under that rule, men who qualify under the titles they wear do their utmost by their oath and the law which governs them and those under them. They do not twist and squirm and lament their sad situation. They deliver the goods or get out.

"Passing the Buck"

New Orleans Times-Picayune: There is a rule of the military service which this small war we are emerging from might well hand on to affairs political, municipal or state: "Don't pass the buck." The officer who was told to lead his men to the capture of a definite objective, or to accomplish a certain result in organization or supply, made his effort, won or lost. Thereafter he stood upon the results and by them was judged. It is a hard rule, but a rule that braces spines and warms feet that are prone to be chilly if there is good somewhere in the man. And by it, also, the unfit disclose themselves quickly and are eliminated. Under that rule, men who qualify under the titles they wear do their utmost by their oath and the law which governs them and those under them. They do not twist and squirm and lament their sad situation. They deliver the goods or get out.

A BIT OF VERSE

I FOLLOW.

Clinton Scollard, in New York Sun, I follow the lure of the lips of the morn.
 The breath of the pine bough, the call of the corn,
 The murmur of springs,
 And the butterfly's wings
 That flutter and fleet over height,
 over hollow,
 The voice of the wind as it chants,
 "I follow, I follow!"
 I follow the luminous light in the west,
 The flickering sheen on the eriole's breast,
 The beckoning fern,
 And the flickering burn,
 The kingfisher's dart, and the swoop of the swallow,
 Aspiration and impulse and all things that yearn.
 I follow, I follow!

I follow, I follow, I follow afar
 The path of the sun and the path of the star
 To the secrets of birth
 And the wonders of death;
 While leaving behind me the empty and hollow,
 I seek what makes sweeter and fairer the earth;
 I follow, I follow!

A BIT OF FUN

Tiny Flats.

Little Roy, after his first experience in a sleeper, said to his aunt, "The flats were awful small. There was only room for mother and me downstairs, so pa had to sleep in one upstairs."
 The Funniest Thing She Saw.
 "Well, Dorothy, what did you see in the country?" asked a father of his little 4-year-old daughter, who had just returned from a visit to her grandparents.
 "Oh, lots of funny things," was the reply, "and the funniest of all was the hired man unmilking the cow."

Hobbledehoy.

"See that fellow yonder marking time? He must be a returned soldier." "No, he isn't. That is Billings. He's a great ladies' man and he is practising to keep in step with the girls who wear narrow skirts."—Wichita Eagle.

Caught at Last.

Wife (with newspaper): "Just think of it! A couple got married a few days ago after a courtship which lasted fifty years."
 Hub: "I suppose the poor old man was too feeble to hold out any longer."

What a Pity!

An untravelled countryman once treated himself to a trip to London. There, for the first time in his life he saw a schoolgirl go through her gymnastic exercises for the amusement of the little ones with whom she was playing.

After gazing at her with looks of interest and compassion for some time, he asked a boy nearby if she had legs.
 "No," replied the boy, "them's gymnastic."

"Ah, how sad," said the man. "How long's she had 'em?"—London Ideas.

What We Get.

We ordered the car.
 But now we note
 That what we got
 Was someone's goat.

The Foolish Landlord.
 "So the landlord raised the rent on you. What a fool!"
 "How so?"
 "Share it's the more he'll be testin' when ye don't pay it."

Disheartening.

Young Tomkins' attendance at the evening school ambulance classes was most regular. He entered into the spirit of the thing with an enthusiasm and wholeheartedness that was really delightful to witness. But at last his enthusiasm cooled to when,

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Puds Simkins came over after school today and we was playing submareen chasers up in the setting room, and all of a sudden we started to smell corn beef and cabbage, proving we was going to have it for supper. Puds smelling out loud and saying, O boy, corn beef and cabbage, I wish I was home smelling it.
 We don't you stay heer for supper, ill ask ma if you can, I sed.
 With I did, and ma sed, Youll haff to ask Nora, she's bin complaining about having so much company lately, so if she dussent mind ill sure I dont.
 With I went down to the kitchen to ask her, and she was setting there peeling potatoes with a unsatisfied expression, and I smelled the corn beef and cabbage out loud about 3 times, saying, O, Nora, that sertenly smells good, you must be a grate cook to make a thing smell like that.
 I guess theres worse cooks than me, sed Nora. Meaning she thawt she was pritty good, and I sed, I wouldnt be surprised if you was the best cook in the city, Nora.
 And I smelled a couple of more times, Nora saying, Go way from there with your sniffing.
 If I could cook as good as wat you can, Nora, ill wunt everybody I know to eat it so they could say how good it was, I should think the more people there was for supper the better you would like it, I sed.
 That jest proves some people is as dum as they look, sed Nora.
 Meaning me, and I sed, How about if Puds stays for supper, will that be all rite?
 It will be all rite, it will be impossible and ill jest like to see you try it, sed Nora.
 Being wy Puds went home for supper.

and he left the ambulance class in disgust.

"Ha, Tomkins!" said his instructor meeting him one day. "Why did you leave the class? I always looked upon you as a most promising pupil."
 "Well," said Tomkins, "nothing ever happens, I've thrown bits of orange and banana skins on the pavement opposite my house, but no accidents occur, so what's the good of going on?"

No Wonder!

An intelligent Frenchman was studying the English language.
 "When I discovered that if I was quick I was fast," said he, "that if I was fast I was quick, I was puzzled. But when I came across the sentence, 'The first one won one prize,' I was tempted to give up trying to learn English."

Freddy (who has eaten his apple)—"Let's play at Adam and Eve."
 Milla—"How do we do that?"
 Freddy—"You tempt me to eat your apple and I give way."—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Aroused Suspicion.

Mrs. Brown looked round her uneasily.
 "Do you know," she said to Mr. Brown, "I'm expecting every minute to hear the doorbell ring and to be told that Clarence has been in some dreadful mischief!"
 "What makes you think that?" asked Mr. Brown.
 "Oh, he's been so good all day; and this morning he took down one of his lesson books and studied for nearly two hours."

Guard: "Hil yer cant take that 'ere bag into the carriage with yer."
 Youth: "and why not, pray?"
 Guard: "Why, 'cause we wants the room for the passengers, that's why."
 Youth: "Oh, indeed? Do the passengers mind my bag?"
 Guard: "The mind usually travel under the seat, then?"

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